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### A gun-shy **Bob Hoskins**

Time Out



### Messiah when?

The Weekend Magazine



### Joyce Brenner: In the eye of the storm

News in Focus, Page 7

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NIS 7.00 (Etlat NIS 6.00)



Indian classical dancers perform in New Delhi yesterday during celebrations marking India's 50th anniversary of independence

# India's jubilee dampened by past failures

NEW DELHI, India (AP) - Recalling its applition to wipe every tear from every eye." India commemorated 50 years of inde-pendence yesterday with festivity tempered by awareness its founders agenda is unfinished.

Police said rebels marked the anniversary with violence, killing northeastern India.

The attack was a reminder the blood-soated partition of Pakistan nic tensions straining this diverse, populous democracy. Neighboring Pakistan, which

gained independence a day before

Twins' birthday is India's celebration, Page 6

India in 1947, also saw violence mar celebrations yesterday.

Police fired on crowds in the southern port city of Karachi as a buildings along the parade route in jubilant wreath-laying ceremooy

Late yesterday, flag-waving cians performed on roadside rowds gathered to watch men stages. Additional celebrations are crowds gathered to watch men who fought Britain for India's planned for today. independence ride jeeps in a parade to New Delhi's imposing

See INDIA, Page 6

festive lights. Dancers and musi-

related steps that we regard as coun-

Ramallah, Hebron internal closure lifted

Albright to visit

in September

US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's spokesman announced vesterday that she is making plans for a September trip to the region that will focus on speeding up

and news agencies

Israeli-Palestinian peace talks. The IDF meanwhile lifted the nternal closure on Ramallah and Hebron, leaving only Bethlehem

"The secretary of state is going to the Middle East soon. I can assure you of that. The 'when' is linked to the kind of trip she wants to have and the kind of results that we see in the area of security that we are going to be watching in the coming weeks," spokesman James Rubin told reporters.

The trip would be Albright's first to the region as secretary of state. Assessing a report from US peace

envoy Dennis Ross to Albright after four days in the region, Rubin also renewed an appeal to Israel to resume payments to the Palestinian Authority of taxes withheld from Palestinian workers.

But he did not insist that Israel lift the closure and readmit tens of thousands of Palestinians workers nor that it lift travel bans.

"We're going to be very careful about what we declare to be security-related closure and non-securityterproductive," Rubin said.

"The peace process will never get back on track unless [PA] Chairman [Yasser] Arafat makes a decision and implements that decision to have sustained cooperation in the area of security," Rubin said. "And frankly, we've told him that his failure to do so only harms himself and harms the people in those areas."

While she would be focusing on relations. Palestinian-Israeli Albright would probably make other stops in the region as well, Rubin said. "We have broader inter-

Foreign Ministry slams EU letter to Arafat, Page 2

ests in the region, we have national security interests that go beyond and the Palestinian Authority," he said.

Albright said in an August 6 speech she was prepared to go to the Middle East at the end of August provided progress was made in improving the security situation after the bombing in Jerusalem's Mahaneh Yehuda on

"It's possible the trip will not be in August but will be in September," Rubin said.

He said that Albright would be watching "results over the coming weeks and make a decision on that

The IDF dropped the internal clo-sure on Ramallah and Hebron yesterday, leaving only Bethlehem closed, while it opened a checkpoint in Gaza for the export of

closed is partly due to the discovery of a bomb factory in nearby Beit Sahur a few weeks ago, as well as the town's proximity to Jerusalem. The decisions were made in a

The choice to keep Bethlehem

meeting of the territories' forum headed by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, Speaking last night at a graduation ceremony of the National

Defense College, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyaho slammed the PA for not cracking down on terror. He said the PA is not fighting terror, which is a condition for the continuation of the peace process.

Netanyahu said terrorists in PAcontrolled territory are gaining in strength. Palestinian towns serve as\_ places of refuge for terrorists after attacks in Israel, he said.

See ALBRIGHT Page 14

### from India failed to quash the eth- surged out of control, leaving two with flower garlands and strings of Moonies sponsor 'Jewish Identity' meeting in Ariel next week

By MARILYN HENRY and JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

The Reverend Sun Myung Moon's missionary organization, the Inter-Religious Federation for World Peace, is sponsoring a four-day conference at the College of Judea and Samaria in Arie! scheduled to begin on Monday.

Organizers of the conference, entitled "Contemporary Reflections on Jewish Identity," said they did not check the sponsor's background before taking the reservation.

Several months ago we received a phone call from an independent businessman named Dror in the US. and he told us that there was a group that wanted to hold a conference in Ariel," said Boaz, the college's events organizer, who only gave his first name. "We handled the logistics. We got them rooms and made arrangements with the hotel. We never checked what they were about. Usually there's no need to check because the people who come to

North American **Newsstand Prices** for J.P. Friday Edition NY, NJ: \$3.00 Canada: CDN \$5.00 +TAX Eisewhere: \$4.00

Restaurant . Coffee-Shop Function Half +Glatt Kosher Tel: 02-5318318 SHABBAT BEGINS Jerusalem 6:46 p.m. 8:02 p.m. 7:04 p.m. 8:04 p.m. 6:58 p.m. 8:05 p.m. Beersheba 7:02 p.m. 7:59 p.m. 9:50 p.m. 8:00 p.m.



Ariel are pro-Israel," he said.

from anti-missionary activists in New York who alleged that the forum would give legitimacy to Reverend Moon.

Any association with Moon is "giving bullets to our enemies," said Philip Abramowitz, director of the Task Force on Missionaries and Cults at the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York. "They are not friends of the Jewish community."

Some 25 Jewish scholars from Israel, the US and Europe were scheduled to present papers, according to an invitation to the conference that one invitee gave to The Jerusalem Post. Participants will engage in a "substantive discussion of the pressing issues related to the historical meanings, and current manifestations and transformations of Jewish identity," it said.

Abramowitz suggested that Jewish participants were duped, ignorant of the sponsor or simply exploiting a junket to Israel.

Early versions of Moon's exegesis on the Bible, a tract called "Divine Principle," are replete with classic anti-Jewish themes, including blaming the deaths of Jews on their failture to believe in Jesus.

The most public anti-missionary The planned conference drew fire activity in the American Jewish community has been challenging the youth who saturate subway stations with neon leaflets for "Jews for Jesus." More pernicious and frustrating, the activists say, are the inroads made by missionaries who adroitly manipulate Jewish symbols, rituals and themes. Missionaries also appeal to immigrant and other vulnerable Jewish groups with offers ranging from welfare services to

Îndia Gate war memorial. They

were joined by government offi-

cials, politicians, school children,

musicians and others from across

the country who swelled the event to as many as 15,000 participants.

Bands blared patriotic tunes and

central New Delhi were draped

The conference is a "tactic that is part and parcel of an effort to gain legitimacy and be part of the mainstream religious community," Abramowitz said, furning that Israel was being used a base "to gain a

heap of credibility."
In 1993, the Moonies tried to hold a conference at Jerusalem's Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza Hotel, reserving space under the name of the Women's Federation for World Peace. After the hotel's management learned who was behind the event, it asked the group to find another

The Moonies were identified as one of the most dangerous cults by a public committee chaired by former deputy education minister Miriam Ta'asa-Glaser in the 1980s.

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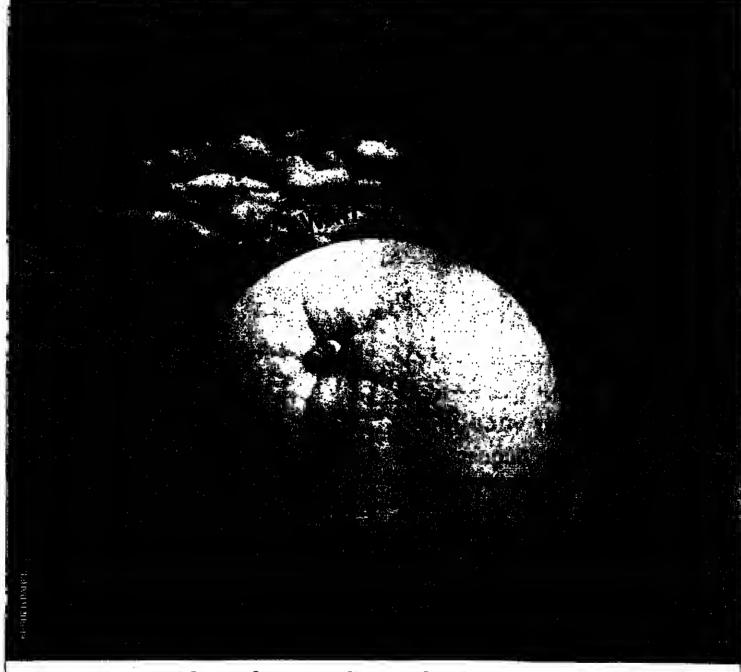
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### in brief

### Palestinian youth dies of wounds in Hebron

A 14-year-old Palestinian shot by IDF soldiers in a clash in Hebron last month died of his wounds yesterday, the boy's fami-

Youssef Ibrahim Jabari was shot in the head by a rubber bullet during a riot. He was the fifth person from Hebron to die in four months of sporadic clashes.

Meanwhile, hundreds of masked activists of the PLO's main Fatah group, some clutching knives and axes, marched in Hebron yesterday, pledging to fight against Israel if necessary. This is a military march to show the Israeli side there are many youths ready to fight if Israel crosses the red line over the national rights of the Palestinian nation," said one protester.

### Mordechai initiating settler radio station

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Communications Minister Limor Livnat are establishing a regional radio station to serve the Jewish population of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Mordechai's office announced yesterday.

While radio franchises inside Israel are licensed by the Second Channel Radio and Television Authority, the defense minister is in charge of radio stations in the West Bank and Gaza, the statement said. Mordechai has had Eli Cohen, bis aide for settlement issues, research the issue for several weeks.

Jerusalem Post Staff

### IDF demolishes extensions on Palestinian homes

The government yesterday partly demolished five Palestinian homes in the West Bank it said were built illegally, witnesses and the army said.

Witnesses said bulldozers under army guard levelled five annexes to homes in a compound owned by one extended family in the village of Nebi Samwil near Jerusalem.

God might not get you oow but you're going to have your day later," one Palestinian woman screamed at troops. Peter Lemer, spokesman for the civil administration, said the army demolished extensions to homes in Nebi Samwil and a house io Bir Naballah, near Ramallah, because they were built without permits.

### PA officer suspected of shooting at soldiers

Israel apprehended a Palestinian policeman suspected of shooting at IDF soldiers patrolliog near Gush Katif, in the Khan Youois area of the Gaza Strip yesterday. But a Palestinian official denied the policeman fired his gun and said he was pursuing a suspected Palestinian smuggler, who fired at the Palestinian officers during the chase. There were no reported

Israel filed a complaint with Palestioian officials at a joint coordinating office in Gaza. Reul

# US panel looks to halt Israel missile program

recommended halting US funding for Israel's development of a ballistic missile interceptor, which is a major component of Israel's emerging anti-missile defense system.

The House Appropriations funding for the Israeli-US Boost the last two years. Phase Intercept (BPI) program be diverted to a far more ambitious US

.. Air Force program called Air Borne Laser.

ni A. Congressional committee, has ... Israeli defense sources expressed concern and lobbyists in Washington are hoping to convince a joint House-Senate conference committee to overturn the recommendation.

The BPI program has been fund-Committee recommended that ed to the tune of \$20 million over

See PANEL, Page 12

# 2 border policemen jailed for assault

# Each receive eight-month sentence for beating and degrading Palestinians

yesterday sentenced two border policemen filmed assaulting Palestinians to eight months in jail

Tzahi Shmaya, 19, and David Ben-Abu, 20, were also given a 12-month suspeoded sentence.

Reading their sentence, Judge Rafi Strauss said their actions "disgraced the Border Police" and added that he hoped the jail sentence would discourage such behavior in the future.

Shmaya and Ben-Abu were filmed by an amateur cameraman last November attacking six Palestinians stopped at the A-Ram roadblock in northern Jerusalem without entry permits.

The videotape showed the two policemen kicking some of the Palestinians in the head, kneeing one in the stomach, forcing others to do push-ups and riding one man like a donkey. It was broadcast around the world.

The men were charged with aggravated assault and abuse of authority.

Witnesses said relatives of the convicted policemeo erupted from their seats in rage after hearing the sentence. One woman was evicted for calling the judge a "leftist."

This is not what they deserve. They went out to serve the country. Now the Palestinians are laughing," said Beo-Abu's father.

Shalom.
"I think it will be difficult for a Jewish mother to send her son to the army in light of a verdict like this because the punishment is quite severe," defence lawyer Sasi Gez told reporters. Gez said he would appeal the verdict.



Border policeman David Ben-Abu (left) is held back by a plainclothes policeman yesterday in Jerusalem Magistrate's Court, where he and fellow border policeman Tzahi Shmaya were sentenced to eight months in jail for assaulting Palestinians last November.

after the B'tselem human rights organization released a 31-page report detailing what it said were 15 cases of "beatings, degradation

NEWS

The verdict was issued a day and serious abuse" of Palestinians men must be held accountable for by security forces over the last three months.

B'tselem activist Yuval Ginbar said officers and not just police-

police brutality. There is something much more

rotten here than one or two apples," Ginbar said, "Beating and

ill-treatment of Palestinians, especially at roadblocks and especially by the Border Police, is a very widespread and very serious phe-

Border Police Commander Yisrael Sadan said, however, that the force was now more vigilant about preventing abuses, and the number of reported cases declined

dramatically in recent months. (News agencies)

### 3 border policemen confess to abuse

Three border policemen were arrested by their commander yesterday after they confessed to abusing two Palestinian workers near the Beit Shernesh forest

The arrest followed a Channel 1 report Wednesday showing one of the Palestinians, Ahmed Mousa, 19, as he described the incident to police investigators. Mousa said the border policemen had beaten him and his cousin, Mahmoud Renim, 27, with clubs, tied them to a jeep and dragged them on a dirt

Channel I said the two had entered Israel without permits in violation of the closure imposed on the West Bank. The three border policemen are in a unit that carries out joint patrols with Palestinian policemen. . Itim

# Hadassah denounces Palestinian accusations of racism

#### By JUDY SIEGEL

Hadassah Medical Organization director-general Prof. Shmuel Penchas yesterday denounced a Palestinian human rights organization for "lying" on an Internet site and in publicity material, that claimed Hadassah-University Hospital "expelled" all Palestinian patients after the Mahaneh Yehuda bombing.

In a letter to Palestinian Authority Health Minister Dr. Riyadh Za'anoun, Penchas referred to a claim on Bir Zeit University's Internet site (http://www.birzeit.edu/lawe) that the Ein Kerern hospital bad "expelled" a 20-year-old patient named Randa Hassouna.

She "was in lotensive care when she was informed she had to leave. They took out the glucose injection from her arm, then asked her to pack and go. Randa was not accompanied by her relatives," the Bir Zeit statement said, "and she encountered numerous difficulties while on her way home.

"Another patient, Issa Al Makhamra, suffering from a severe spinal infection, was similarly expelled from the hospital and was forced to bire a taxi and leave as quickly as possible. Ali Shihada, 75, of Nablus was also

expelled without prior warning,"
Penchas declared that "needless to say, this informa-

tion is untrue and false. No patient was expelled from the hospital before, during or after the Mahaneh Yehuda terror bombings."
He added that Randa Hassouna from Ramallah was

hospitalized for three days in the short-term hospitalization unit, and not intensive care, and released when she no longer needed treatment, Issa Al Makhamra from the village of Yatta was bospitalized at the Mount Scopus hospital in April for six hours. Hadassah had treated two patients named Ali Shihada, and it was not clear whom the Bir Zeit statement was referring to; neither had vis-

ited Hadassah during the past year, Penchas said. Penchas added that although Hadassah was "being blamed for a serious and racist" incident, over half of its pediatric oncology beds, for example, are taken up by Palestinians. In addition, both Za'anoun and his deputy were treated at the Ein Kerem hospital last week.

He urged the PA health minister to deny the false accusations, and sent copies to PA Chairman Yasser Arafat and his adviser, former Hadassah gynecologist Dr.

### Where to stay in Israel

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### Israel slams EU letter to Arafat A reaction emanating from the Foreign Ministry stressed that

The Management

The European Union's ability to act as an honest broker between Israel and the Palestinian Authority was called into question here yesterday by its criticism of the closure imposed on the West Bank and

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Gaza Strip after the Jerusalem sui-cide bombing on July 30. Triggering a new crisis in the relationship between the EU and Israel was a letter sent by the multinational body's current president,

"Poos refrained from demanding that Arafat take practical steps against the terrorist infrastructure." Luxembourg's Jacques Poos, to PA Chairman Yasser Arafat.

> view of past precedent." The text of the EU letter, released

Particular exception was taken to the EU's comment that "Israel cannot expect the PA to act against terrorism because of its refusal to transfer tax revenues to the PA even though there is no basis for this in

by the Foreign Ministry, also describes the measures enforced on the Palestinians by Israel as "exces-

See EU, Page 12

# In yesterday's daily Chance drawings, the first winning eards were the queen of spades, 9 of hearts, ten of diamonds, and 7 of clubs, and in the second draw were the jack of spades, 8 of hearts, 9 of diamonds, and jack of clubs.

Winning cards and numbers

In yesterday's weekly Payis Hazak drawing, ticket number 166313 won NIS 1 mil-lion, while ticket number 725042 won the car.

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# No progress in search for killer of hitchhiker

By DOUGLAS DAVIS and news agencies

Negev District police said they were pursuing all avenues of investigation to locate the gunman who shot and killed Jeffrey Max Hunter, a British tourist, and wounded his girlfriend, Charlntte Gibb, north of Eilat early Wednesday morning.

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One lead fell through yesterday when the owner of a vehicle seen near the site of murder was located and questioned, and turned out to have had nothing to do with the incident.

Police said the driver may have fled to Egypt.

Hunter and Gibb were shut about 80 kitnmeters north of Eital by a man from whom they had accepted a ride, as they were making their way from the southern resort town to Tiberias.

The pair had arrived in Israel last Friday and were planning to spend part of a six week vacation working on a kihhutz near Tiberias.

Gibh, who suffered moderate wounds to her right hand, left arm, and her cheek, said it was "a miracle" she was still alive.

"We were having a cigarette outside the car, during a rest from the journey, and then I just saw lots of flashes and he'd shot us," Gibh said. "There was silence, we weren't really speaking, and then I



Charintte Gihh.

just saw the light," said Gibh, a student from Peterborough in eastem England.

The miracle was that the bullets that hit her face did not cause damage save for soft tissue. The hullet in her arm caused nn damage to the nerves or artery," a doctor who treated her told Channel 2 yesterday. "The hattle now is to prevent infection," he said.

Minutes after the shooting, soldiers found Gibb beside the road and administered first aid. Hunter had died instantly.

As Gibb's parents arrived here yesterday to be with their daughter, who is recovering in Beersheha's Soroka Hospital,

Hunter's parents were waiting for the return of their son's body. His father, Norman Hunter, a

clerk with a finance company, said his family was devastated. "Max was the best son anyone could hope for," he said. "He was good at everything – sports, athletics, and he loved music. He was a tremendnus young man with an infectious personality and a great sense of humor. He had a great future ahead of him."

Hunter, a law student from Surrey, south of London, "loved Israel and had gone there to sort things out and think about his future," his father continued. "It was a horrific thing to happen. He was loved by everyone and the only thing we can hope is that Charlotte will be all right and that they catch the man who did this."

While playing down the impact nn tourism from Britain, Israeli officials acknowledged that the shooting would do little to "enhance the attractions of Israel" in the highly competitive Mediterranean tourism market.

The British Foreign Office yes-terday advised British visitors to Israel to be extremely careful and warned that tourists who accepted lifts from strangers were running unnecessary risks.

Police asked that anyone who might have seen anything that could aid in the investigation, to



The haby saved by dialysis at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital.

# Infant with rare disorder saved by dialysis

The life of a baby from the North who was born two weeks agn with a very rare metabolic disorder was saved in Jerusalem after she received appropriate treatment at Shaare Zedek Hospital.

The hahy suffers an inherited disorder called "maple syrup urine disease" or branched chain ketoaciduria, in which an enzyme needed for the breakdown of three amino acids (valine, leucine and isoleucine) is

The disease, usually discovered in infancy, is recognized by the typical odor of maple syrup in the urine and hy unnamral reflexes.

She was in a hospital in the North for a few days, but when her condition deteriorated she was transferred to the Jerusalem medical center, which has much experience in treating metabolic diseases in children.

She arrived with a low pulse and respiration and hardly reacted to her surroundings. Doctors resuscitated her and began to remove the poisonous amino acids that had accumulated in her blood via hemodialysis.

nephrology unit, noted that dialysis in newborns is extremely rare, posing dangers and requiring much skill from the staff. A catheter was inserted into her chest so she could be connected to the dialysis machine. Her blood was cleaned twice and her condition

Dr. Orly Alpeleg, head of the metabolic disease unit, said that the bahy must be fed according to a strict diet, that does not contain those amino acids her body cannot hreak

# Barak: PM's Syria proposals are too compromising

By MICHAL YUDELMAN and LIAT COLLINS

Labor Party Chairman Ehud Barak yesterday blasted Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's proposal for peace with Syria as a mistake and said it was "too compromising."....

Barak said he would continue to try to bring about the resump-tion of talks between Israel and Syria, as well as with Israel's other Arab neighbors, despite Netanyahu's objections.

Barak would not comment on the report that Syrian President Hafez Assad refused to accept a letter from him, until he had spoken to MK Nawaf Massalha, with whom the message had been sent, on the latter's return from Syria today. Massalha reportedly forwarded the message orally.
Sources close to Barak

expressed astonishment at the Likud's attacks on Labor's leader for sending a message to Assad via the Israeli Arah delegation to Damascus, when Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu had done the same thing.

Netanyahu sent Assad a message three weeks ago proposing a link between the security arrangements Syria would agree to and the extent of Israel's withdrawal from the Golan, Yediot Aharonot reported yesterday. This was denied by the prime minister's spokesman, but confirmed by a senior official. Another message was sent via Netanyahu's advisor Uzi Arad, who passed it on to members of the delegation before they left for Damascus.

The sources said that when Netanyahu was opposition leader he had sent Assad a message urging him to wait until after the elections, hinting that he would be easier to reach an agreement with. This, according to Labor leaders, made Assad take a tougher stand with Rahin and Peres's governments. Netanyahu denied it at the time.

Barak said yesterday that linking the withdrawal in the Golan only to security arrangements, as Netanyahu offered, was more compromising than his proposal, which conditioned Israel's withdrawal on normalization, water

and economic agreements, agreements concerning terrorism and the situation in Lebanon, in addition to the security arrangements. Barak warned that Netanyahu's proposal constitutes a threat to peace and normalization, two issues which cannot be overlooked.

Likud spokeswoman Ronit Eckstein said: "Despite Barak's efforts and pleas to pass on a message to the Syman in an attempt to signal that he is prepared for enncessions on the Golan Heights - Assad refused to accept the message.

"The Likud stresses that it would be right for Barak and his party to support the government's efforts to protect the state's interests instead of undermining them. The Likud hopes Barak will draw conclusions from his serious error.

## Two MKs visit Syrian Jews

On the last day of their week- Minister Binyamin Netanyahu MKs and journalists that many long controversial visit to Syria, two participants from the Israeli Arah delegation -MKs Sallah Tarif (Labor) and Taleb A-Sanaa (Democratic Arah Party) - met with members of the Syrian Jewish community, toured the Jewish quarter and visited a synagogue.

The head of the community, Yousef Jajati, whom they met in his home, sent a letter of regards in Hehrew to Prime and called on him to "make of the younger generation had peace with Syria and the Arah world and the Palestinians, a people who want to live."

The delegation asked to visit the Jewish community at the start of their trip, but permission was only granted by the Syrian authoritics yesterday afternoon. The Syrian Jewish community now numbers between 100 to 200.

Community members told the nity in Syria is better than that

emigrated. Rahamim Levy told Israel Radio he had stayed in-Syria because he had work and friends there, but his children live in the US. Asked about their treatment in Syria, Levy said that there had been prob-

not today. A-Sanaa reportedly said the situation of the Jewish commu-

lems 30 and 50 years ago, but

of the Arabs in Israel. Several members of the Israeli Arab delegation met in Damascus on Wednesday night with leaders of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a spokesman for the group told Agence France Presse yesterday. However, the spokesman denied that they met with the group's leader, George Hahash, currently in

Lias Collins

### Rabinovich: Israeli Arab visit indicates 'sea change' in Syrian attitudes

By JONATHAN TEPPERMAN

Since the delegation of 42 Israeli Arabs arrived in Syria last week, most of the media's attention has naturally focused on the delegates' travels and on their sometimes provocative statements regarding Israel and

But one question has been left unanswered: Why did Syrian President Hafez Assad initiate the trip, and have his goals been

tn According Rahinovich, a former amhassador to the US and the Labor government's chief negotiator with Syria, the answer is cnmplicated, thanks in part to Syrian hungling of the visit. What the Syrians wanted to

accomplish was to send, in their own way, a positive message to Israeli public," he said. "Now, I don't think it has come across quite the way they wanted, and I think that the trip has been mishandled. But that was the idea." Rabinovich said that "the trip

itself is a sign that the Syrians now want to play in Israeli poliucs through the Arab minority here. You must remember that the Egyptians already do it; King Hussein of Jordan does it; and Arafat does it. Syria is a hugely influential regional power which has decided to extend its influence to this community.

For Rahmovich, the trip therefore signats a sea change in Syrian attitudes.

Syria has now reached a level of sophistication whereby it can play this [Israeli Arah] card in a way it never could before. The 1994 trip [by Arab MKs], for example, was an American idea which the Syrians had foisted onto them and which they

accepted only grudgingly. It reveals a lot that this time the initiative for the trip came at the capital may only succeed in Syrian's own accord."

that emerged from the Syrian increasing tension between the Unfortunately for Damascus, two countries, and may damage the harsh criticism of Prime the standing of Israeli Arahs.



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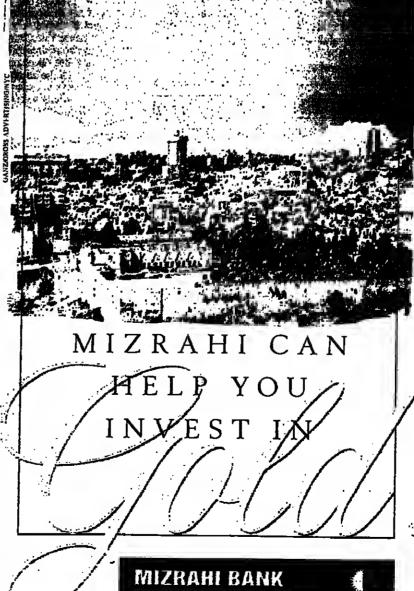
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missing entirely.

If anything, the adoption of so many reforms at once raises the concern that none of them will receive the concentrated hacking needed to make them happen. If the government wants to increase public confidence that it is serious about the structural reforms, it would be wise to follow up its decision with a much shorter list of top priority projects, justified by projections of their direct benefit to the public, and backed by

The more immediate and real parts of the cabinet action were the decisions to cut the 1998 hudget by NIS 2.3 billion and to set an inflation target of 7 percent to 10 percent. The budget cut is certainly not to be sneezed at, nor will it be easy to implement. The question is whether it will be enough to maintain the momeotum towards transforming the Israeli economy, or whether - coupled with the high inflation target - it represents a gradual weakening in the government's resolve.

The budget cut decided upon will ostensibly result in a deficit that is 2.4% of GNP. It is quite likely, however, that it will be "discovered" in the middle of the year that another large cut will be necessary to meet the target, because the hudget revenue estimates were not realistic. Whether it is easier to pass one large cut or two smaller cuts is a matter of political tactics. The danger, however, is that at least part of the shortfall will be made up in new taxes, rather than further cuts.

Perhaps more worrisome is the government's choice to jump off its glidepath to relatively low (6%) inflation by the year 2000, a target set just a year ago. Bank of Israel Governor Jacoh Frenkel fought hard for a 6% to 9% inflation

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Founded in 1932 by GERSHON AGRON EDITORIAL OFFICES AND ADMINISTRATION The Jerusalem Post Building, P.O. Box 81, Romema, Jerusalem 91000 Telephone 02-531-5666, Pax 02-538-9527. CIRCULATION— 02-531-5610, Pax 02-538-9017. ADVERTISING • 02-531-5608, 02-531-5637-40 Fax 02-538-8408, TEL AVIV: 5 Rehov Hamasser, POB 28398 (61283) Relephone 03-6390333, Fax 6390277. Published daily except Sannday, in Jerusalem, Israel by The Palestine Post Loy Primed by The Jerusalem Post Press in Jerusalem, Registered at the G.P.O. © The Jerusalem Post 1997, Reproduction, or storage in a retrieval system, or in any other form, is prohibited without permission. Editors: 1932-1955 GERSHON AGRON, 1955-1974-TED LURIE; 1974-1975 LEA BEN-DOR, 1975-1989 ARI RATH and ERWIN FRENKEL, 1990-1992 N. DAVID GROSS, 1992-1996 DAVID BAR-ILLAN INTERNET EDITION: http://www.jpost.co.il General E-mail: jpeda@jpost.co.il Editorial E-mail:editors@jpost.co.il

## The steps not taken

The problem with the government's deciwhat is good may not be real, what is real may not be good enough, and what is critical is

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The best, most mouth-watering part was the adoption of a hlueprint for about 100 structural reforms in the economy. Most involved opening up competition in important sectors such as local telephooe calls, the bus companies, satellite television, local air transport, and others. The case for such measures was made blindingly clear to every Israeli hy the sharp, instant drops in international and cellular phone rates when those markets were opened to competi-

Yet such lists of structural reforms have been trotted out and approved before, most recently in January; implementation is another matter. The decision to move forward should not be dismissed, as it has by some people, because such decisions are certainly welcome and necessary. But without the detailed plans, budgets, deadlines, and in some cases, legislation needed to hack them up, none of these reforms will get off

a detailed time line for implementation,

target, which would bave maintained the govsions on the hudget on Wednesday is that ernment on this path, hut the cabinet rebuffed him and instead went with the Finance Ministry

recommendation. Though the one perceot difference between the Bank and the Treasury on inflation targets might seem minuscule, it is the difference between moving forward and standing atill. With inflation currently at roughly 10 percent, Frenkel argued, with some logic, that there is not point in a target that is no differeot than the

By going with the Treasury, the government effectively signaled that reducing inflation was no longer a priority. The Treasury won the day with the perennial argument that a too-determined battle against inflation would cause

unemployment. In fact, the idea that fighting inflation causes unemployment is shortsighted at best and fatuous at worst. The clear record in the United States and elsewhere is that low inflation triggers boom times in employment, and high inflation causes uncertainty and leads companies to put their hiring plans on hold. Inflation hits small businesses and start-ups the hardest, and these

are the greatest engines for new employment. Furthermore, inflation is a hidden tax oo the weaker sectors of society. The "social lobby," the Histadrut, and industrialists may not care about all the non-government workers whose salaries are not linked to inflation, but it is they

who will suffer most as their income is eroded. However critical the decisions on structural reform, the hudget, and the inflation targets were, one of the most important elemeots of any serious reform of the economy seems out to be on the radar screen. Three government-owned banks control 80 percent of Israeli bank assets, own more than half of the mutual funds, and dominate the stock market and much of Israel's industry through shareholdings, subsidiaries, and associated holding companies. Though the government is right to begin selling off ownership of these banks as planned, it must first break up the intersecting cartels that dominate the Israeli economy, rather than simply transferring them to private bands.

There is every reason to believe that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu understands full well that realizing his vision of a booming world-class, economy will depend oo cracking the bard outs of overblown government, inflation, and over-cooceotratioo of assets. To succeed, be will have to bring his case outside the cabinet room and explain to the public what reform will mean for their childreo's bope for a job when they finish the army, for their paycheck, for the cost of their bome, and the quality of their education. The public interest has no lobby; Netanyahu must mold public opinion into such a lobby, or his visioo will drown in a sea of narrow vested interests.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### **NO REAL DEMOCRACY**

#### Sir. - In "How not to make decisions" (July 25), Moshe Arens explains why he opposes the direct election of the prime minister and expresses his hope that Israel will "return to parliamentary democra-

cy" soon. Arena and most people believe that Israel is indeed a democracy, but we are really a partyocracy. Knesset members represent politi-cal parties. Whenever MKs vote according to their conscience and against their party's position, they do so as individuals with no rec-

ognizable consomency. To turn Israel into a true democracy, what we really need is the direct election of all 120 MKs. With the direct election of MKs. politicians will have to earn and keep the public's approval.

TSVI NOVEMBER

Jerusalem.

Sir, - In your paper of July 21, I read that three men were arrested by the Lod police for a sign that said "Mordechai is a failure, Sharon for defense." Having practiced law

### MACCABIAH TEAM

Sir. - The Austrian Delegation to the 15th Maccabiah shares the grief of our Australian brethren on the tragic death of three of its delegation to the games and wishes a speedy and full recovery to all the injured.

The tragedy that befell the Australian team has of course overshadowed all else at the 15th Maccabiah, Yet, we are surprised and saddened that not one national leader, or Maccabiah official, nor any of the media in Israel, found the words to mention that also 11 members of the Austrian team were injured, some with broken limbs, when the bridge over the Yarkon collapsed before the ill-fated opening ceremony.

PETER TÉICHNER, Chef de Mission. Austrian Delegation to the 15th Maccabiah Games Herzliya (Vienna).

### **NO CRIME**

in New York for four decades, I find it impossible to detect any crime in that sign. Has it come to the point where criticism professing to prefer one minister rather than the other is Jerusalem.

### **GRATEFUL MOTHER**

Sir, - My son, Ben Gold, was one of the British teenagers involved in a recent incident that took place in Jaffa on July 22 when Bakr Abu Rabieb drove into and then attacked his group with a knife and sword.

I am writing to commend the courage and quick action of the off-duty policeman, Daniel Kolson, who tackled the attacker and risked his life in disarming him and subsequently arresting

As one of the parents concerned, I would like to express my deepest graotude and praise for his bravery. Without his presence of mind and courage the outcome of that event would have been far more

LULU GOLD London.

a crime, or is it the ineptitude of the Lod police in making a silly arrest for no crime at all? ARTHUR GRUDER

### FROM OUR ARCHIVES

60 years ago: On August 15, 1937, The Palestine Post reported that the 20th Zionist Congress meeting in Zurich held its last sessions. David Ben-Gurion. Chairman of the Jewish Agency's Executive, spoke on the significance of the adopted resolutions. He said that "The passionate and earnest debate regarding the proposed Jewish State in a part of Palestine demonstrated anew the depth and indissolubility of the Jewish people and Zionism's faith

in the future. He praised the decision of twothirds majority to authorize the Executive to negotiate with the Jewish atrocities. Egged buses

British without any assent to the principle of Partinon... "The Executive," he promised, "will carefully watch over the rights of the Jewish people under the Balfour Declaration and the Mandate."

50 years ago: On August 15, 1947, The Polestine Post reported nots on the Jaffa-Tel Aviv horder. Stabhings, shootings and arson resulted in the death of three Jews and one Arab, and serious injuries to nine Jews and seven Arabs. Arson damaged lumber mills at Givat Herzl. Wild rumors circulated in Jaffa about the alleged

were showered with stones at the southern approaches to the city. A British patrol killed a 17year-old boy, Yoav Battan, in Haifa when he started running away and the soldiers mistook his school books for pamphlets.

25 years ogo: On August 15 1972, The Jerusalem Post reported that the two female Sabena

hijackers got life terms. In Washington the White House hinted on a US-Soviet accord which would allow 35,000 Russian Jews to emigrate annual-

Alexander Zvielli



# To believe or not to believe

bould we believe Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri or Palestinian Anthority Chairman Yasser Arafat concern-ing the identity of the terrorists that fired Katyusha rockets into Kirvat Shmona last week?

Should we believe Hariri, who claims that it was members of Fatah, or Arafat, who totally denies this accusation and lays the blame for the Mahaneh Yehuda bombing on Hizbullah?

Israel signed the Oslo Accords with Yasser Arafat. It requires him to cooperate in the spheres of intelligence and security. We have no agreement with Rafik Hariri, and our representatives never meet him. Nevertheless, one's gut feeling is to trust him and doubt

Negotiations with Arafat on intelligence and security cooperation are now in full swing. What intelligence can we expect from the PA? How much can we believe Arafat's promises?

It is hard to rely on Arafat, who claimed in an interview on Israeli television that IDF officers told him that the Mahaneh Yehuda bombers came from abroad, not from PA territory. This is a rank lie, No IDF officer could have told him that, when the inquiry has not yet completed, and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said this week in Akaba that even if they came from abroad, the bombers must have had a base in the Jerusalem area.

#### MOSHE ZAK

Can we rely on the information, offered by Arafat a few weeks ago, that the two Palestinian suicide bombers on the Netzarim-Kfar Darom road on April 1 were sent by Israel's General Security Service?

Can we rely on someone who claims, as Arafat claimed before a Labor Party youth delegation, that the suicide bombers at Beit Lid, in

the question posed by GSS head Ami Ayalon to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee: Is a weak Arafat or a strong Arafat better for Israel? Is it in our interest to strengthen Arafat so that he can impose order in PA territory? Alternately, what would we gain from Arafat being weakened, or even overthrown?

Do we have an alternative to

### Is a weak Arafat or a strong Arafat better for Israel?

January 1995, cooperated with extremist IDF officers, who supplied Hamas with Israeli ID cards? It's true that Hariri's source was Hizbullah. Nevertheless, his version is more likely, for that organization usually takes pride in its acts of terrorism. When it disclaims shooting into the Galilee, Hariri can claim to believe

Hizbullah. Arafat can only make a statement that be is grieved at the campaign conducted against him by Lebanon, "especially oow when a united Arab and Islamic stand is required in the face of the war between Israel and the Palestinian

DOUBTING Arafat's word in any future agreement hrings us back to Arafat? Or should we be satisfied that there is a Palestinian leader ready for coexistence with us? If that is the case, we must not threaten his leadership, in case his suc-

cessor returns to the pre-Oslo days.

The discussion is reminiscent of the debate between us and the Americans in the 1960s, when some here believed it was possible to overthrow Egyptian president Gamal Abdel Nasser, then in the forefront of those who threatened our existence. The Americans claimed that for all Nasser's shortcomings, his rule should not be threatened, because his successor was liable to be even worse.

The debate ended with Nasser's death in September 1970, and his successor, Anwar Sadat, signed a

ne its future, and certainly not its

security, to Arafal's well-being.
"Am I stupid?" Arafat repeatedly asked the Israel Television reporter. No, he is not at all stupid. but he is not so smart that he can fob us off forever with denials. In Jerusalem, his verbal tricks are already well known, and conclusions have been drawn from his

clumsy maneuvers. Only now can one of his previous mistakes be revealed. After the Six Day War, before he increased his terrorist activity, his close friend, Hanni Elhassan, had infiltrated into the country leading a cell of terrorists made up of Palestinian students from all over Germany. Elhassan was caught and the GSS took him on a pleasant trip around Israel. He was then set free with a clear message for Arafat: Come and talk.

Arafat refused out of hand, even though he was (erroneously) convinced that Israel would immediately withdraw from the occupied territoriea. That is exactly what worried him. He' believed that withdrawal would lead to peace with the Arab countries, and Fatah, which he then led, would lose its basis for war.

s frontati

Arafat's thinking then was wrong, and he is wrong now in believing that he can hold an olive branch in one hand and a gun of war in the other. They don't go together.

peace treaty with us. Israel cannot The writer is a veteran journalist.

# Syria's 'charm offensive'

Ts 'Syria launching a "charm offensive" calculated to win call following the death of Hafez Assad's son and heir, the current visit of an Israeli Arab delegation to Damascus is not connected with some specific event that could explain the deviation from the Syrian practice of shunning

any contact with Israel or Israelis. Bin Assad, a supremely cautious and calculating ruler, rarely does anything without a reason, and the most reasonable explanation for thia event is that he has decided to add a few more carrots to the repertoire of sticks with which he attempts to influence Israeli and American policy.

Before the last elections, Assad used several signals to indicate his inclination to pursue a peaceful resolution of the conflict, even when negotiations were stalled and tensions were high.

These signals included the practical elimination of constraints on the freedom of Syrian Jews to travel abroad, a public information campaign extolling the virtues of peace, and the decision to join the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership in Barcelona even though Israel was also a member.

Each of these actions could be explained by other motives. Taken together, they represented, at least hy Syrian atandards, a fairly clear reflection of Assad's commitment to a political settlement.

For the last year, however, Israel and Syria have hunkered down in diametrically opposite positions. Not only do they disagree about whether or not negotiations ought to resume at the point reached in

MARK A. HELLER

Israelis? Unlike the condolence March 1996, they even disagree on what that point was. In these circumstances, the indirect dialogue based on mixed signals was replaced by a more brutal exchange of verbal and other threats.

Despite occasional hints that the Israeli leadership was not necessarily committed to the uncompromising position on the Golan issue that it had projected during

THE tattered state of the peace process may offer some hope of active Arab solidarity in the event of a clash with Israel, and recent Syrian efforts to improve ties with Iran are designed to buttress Syria's posicion even more, hut these developments do not override the need to reacovate the Syrian-Israeli track. The problem for Assad, of course, is to get Israel to change its

The visit to Damascus by an Israell Arab delegation shows that Assad has decided to add a few more carrots to the repertoire of sticks with which he attempts to influence Israeli and American policy

the election campaign, Assad abandoned any pretense of trying to influence Israel through a combination of seduction and coercion, Instead, he relied almost exclusively on the Israeli and American fear of violence - in Lebanon or on the Golan Heights - to advance his agenda.

After a year, it is clear that this approach is unproductive. Israel shows no sign of accepting Syria's terms, and neither Israel nor the US, preoccupied with damage control on the Palestinian front, is treating the Syrian track with any sense of urgency. Meanwhile, the danger of uncontrolled escalation is at least as threatening to Syria as it is to Israel, particularly given Syrian concerns, bowever exaggerated, about the strategic implications of Israeli-Turkish military cooperation.

substantive posture without changing his own, and the most promising way to do this is to modify the

Coupled with the denial of Hizbullah responsibility for the last Katyusha attack on Kiryat Shmona, the visit of Israeli Arab dignitaries, including some MKs, may mean that this is the course that Assad has again chosen.

for established government policy;

mix of threat and reassurance.

Of course, the gesture - if it is one - is typically opaque and not a little clumsy. Imagine the reaction if a group of Syrian Jews wanted to travel to Jerusalem to express support for Israeli policy. On the other hand, Israel is a democratic society and cannot legitimately object to efforts by others to influence public opinion, even if they are intended to undermine domestic support

But it this really is now Assau s

Anwar Sadat did in 1977.

that, after all, is precisely what

approach, then the current visit is obviously inadequate. It can be helpful only if it is the beginning of other, more ambitious measures, especially the approval of direct contact between Syrians and Israeli Jews. At present, these do not even take place in international settings. To have a real impact on public opinion, they would have to happen in Syria and Israel. and if not yet in person, then at least on the television screen.

There is no shortage of evidence that Israelis would be receptive to positive expressions of Syrian intent. Recent polls shows a large majority in favor of substancial compromise on the Golan Heights: Labor leader Ehud Barak has directly communicated his party's continuing commitment to the position formulated by Yitzhak Rabin that made serious negotiadons possible; and even Rabbi Kadoorie has publicly urged compromise for the sake of peace. In the delicate minuel of hints and nods between countries in conflict, these things also matter.

A few years ago, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara gave an interview to Israel Television. If his purpose was to reassure, the accusatory tone and tendentious content of his message produced precisely the opposite result. Perhaps the time has come to try

The writer is senior research associate at the Jaffee Center for Strotegic Studies of Tel Ariv

### POSTSCRIPTS

of those little dogs popularly called "hotdogs."

Her pet Chihuahua, Babene lived up to the nickname. Poor little Babette wound up a snack when a two-meter boa constrictor are her.

"She was my life. She was so beautiful and sweet," Torgerson said, sobbing. Animal control officials in West Hills, California, said there are no

boas in the area and speculated it

was a pet that escaped from its The 1-kg dog had gone outside through the kitchen's doggy door when it encountered the snake

coiled on the pado. "I think I'll hear her scream for as long as I live," Torgerson said. The two had been constant companions for nine years.

FLOSSIE TORGERSON had one HISTORY'S TRUE visionaries brought civilization to where it is,

Not exactly...

"Computers in the future may weigh no more than 1.5 tons." -Popular Mechanics, 1949 think there is a world market

for maybe five computers."

Thomas Watson, chairman of IBM, 1943 "I have traveled the length and breadth of this country [America] and talked with the best people, and I can assure you that data processing is a fad that won't last out the year." - The editor in charge

of business books for Prenoce Hall, 1957 "But what is it good for?" -Engineer at the Advanced Computing Systems Division of IBM, 1968, commenting on the

microchip. "There is no reason anyone

would want a computer in their home." - Ken Olson, president, chairman and founder of Digital Equipment Corp., 1977

"640K ought to be enough for anybody." — Bill Gates, 1981 'So we went to Atari and said, 'Hey, we've got this amazing thing, even built with some of your parts, and what do you think about funding us? Or we'll give it to you. We just want to do it. Pay our salary, we'll come work for you.' And they said, 'No.' So then we went to Hewlen-Packard, and they said, 'Hey, we don't need you. You haven't got through college yet." - Apple Computer Inc. founder Sieve Jobs on attempts to

Wozniak's personal computer. This "telephone" has too many shortcomings to be seriously considered as a means of communica-

generate interest in his and Steve

THE WORLD'S most married man has died - yet none of his 29 wives were willing to attend his

funeral.

Glynn Scotty Wolfe of Blythe, California, was laid to rest courtesy of a cemetery and funeral home that decided to pay to keep bim from an unmarked public

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Sidney Presley, owner of Frye Chapel and Mortuary, said she decided to donate her \$2,500 services because it was the right thing

to do. We're a small town," she said. "We care about what goes on

here. The flamboyant minister, who held the Guinness Book of Records title for most-married man for more than 35 years, died of coronary heart disease at age

He left 19 children.

# Democracy revisited

srael's new electoral and par-liamentary system is an intel-Lectual disgrace. It violates every democratic standard, including the majority principle, the fair distribution of powers and the collective responsibility of ministers. This legal enactment already has a sorry record in matters affecting appointments to public service. But the full potentiality of its damage to the national welfare broods over our country with permicious effects.

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So much for the bad news. The good news is that the protest against the current electoral system is growing in power and intensity.

The revulsion is spread across varied parts of our political spectrum. An important organ of opinion led by former defense minister Moshe Arens has become aware of the system'smanifold defects. Consequently the prospect of retreating from a wild eccentricity toward common

sense is greater than it was before. The central immorality in the current electoral system is its assault on the majority principle that should govern every electoral system. If 79 of the 120 members of the Knesset, which brought this system to fruition, believe that confidence should be withheld from a prime minister, that prime minister will still be entitled to

remain in power!
No similar outrage to decency has ever been enacted by any parliament that relies on public confidence. Indeed, the current electoral system is full of anomalies that violate the majority principle to a degree unknown in the democraoc world. Compare this with the observation by Winston Churchill, who told Roosevelt and Stalin in a confession of pride that he personally could be

To photograph better cap-

tured the enphoria that

ABBA EBAN

removed from the leadership of his nation by a single parliamentary vote, and you see the drastic contrast between a democratic and an undemocratic spirit in a mature nation.

In order to carry out a democratic function in a democracy, an Israeli prime minister ought oot to seek or to possess the powers of a Mobutu or a Bokassa or a Castro-

An Israell prime minister ought not to seek or possess the powers of a Mobutu or a Bokassa or a Castro-like dictator

like dictator. On the contrary, a salutary degree of vulnerability should accompany a public figure at every stage of his career.

The avowed purpose of the new system was to reduce the extorconate capacity of small parliamentary groups. The predictable result has been to expand that extortionate capacity to a measure that makes extortion more tempt-

TODAY the Israeli parliament is fragmented to an intolerable degree. No solid majority belongs to a single party, or any two parties that hold power, in a measure compatible with a national man-

The supporters of the direct election of prime ministers have spread the legend that there is something in the current system

that approximates the American model. Nothing of the kind is

The American Founders sat for years in Philadelphia to enact a subtle formula designed to clip the wings of arhitrary power. They combined a powerful presidency with a checks and balances formula based on their experience as colonial subjects.

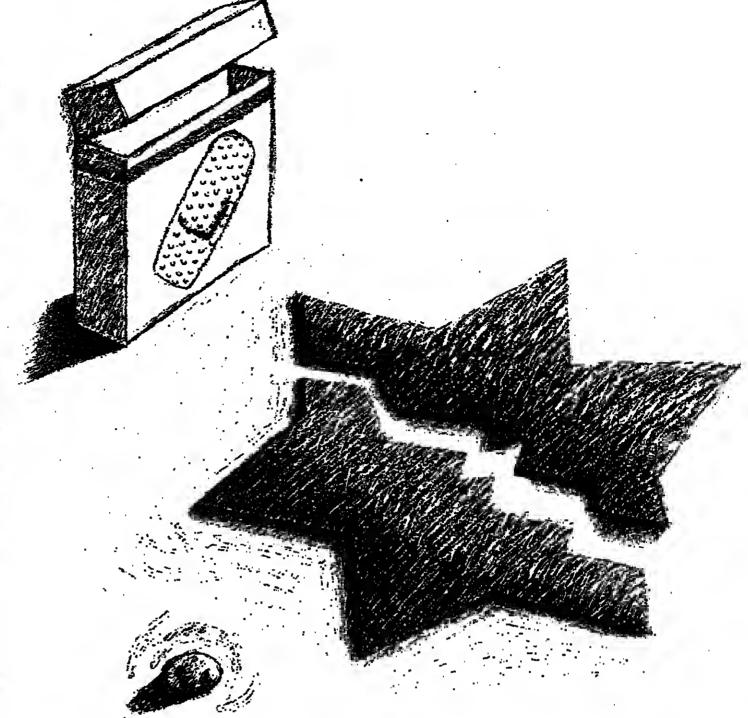
The philosophy underlying these measures is based on the idea that any man or woman exercising power can be tempted to carry that power beyond its due limit How far this is from the frivolity and recklessness of the current Israeli legislation which concentrates all effective powers in the hands of a single ruler, resulting in the construction of a statutory despotism as remote from the thinking of the American framers as anything could be!

A corollary effect of a system that has stripped our body polioc of both the stability that it professed to enhance, and the integrity that it promised to promote, can be seen in the decline of minister-

ial authority.
Israeli ministers under the present system are not apprised of any substantive information on the national condition. They fulfill the role ascribed to them by Gladstone: "It is absurd to count heads in assemblies in which there is such a difference in the contents of the heads."

The only hope for our nation's constitutional health lies in the resilience that sometimes rescnes leaders from the consequences of their own fallibility. The oation has already heeo heavily overcharged for this evil manipulation.

The writer is a former foreign



# Dealing with the religious crisis

gripped Israel after the Six Day War than David Rubinger's world, in Israel, or even in shot of the young paratrooper looking up at the Western Wall with awe and wonder. That young large oumbers of other Jews?" man was coming face to face with the nearly 3,000 years of Jewish is just the point, history since King David laid the

foundations for the First Temple. The Western Wall is the most emotionally resonant site jo Judaism because it is the last link with the Temple that once stood on the mount above.

Today, that sense of continuity is under attack as never before. Increasingly the Western Wall is being turned into a large bulletin board, where all and suodry can trumpet their more modern under-

standings of God's will. The politicization of the Wall began nine years ago when the Women at the Wall staged their first minyan in conjunction with an international feminist conference in Jerusalem. Photographers and journalists, all carefully alerted in advance, were almost as numerous

as those comprising the minyan. If there was a religious statement being made by those present - many of whom were at their first Jewish prayer service in years - it was a negative one: To the extent that Judaism fails to treat men and women as identical, we declare

Judaism invalid. The ongoing confrontation over egalitarian minyanim at the Western Wall owes more to politics than lo religion. As Hillel Halkin recently pointed out in the Forward, nothing in the tenets of Reform or Conservative Judaism requires women to wear tallitot at the Western Wall. Nor does either movement prohibit meo from reading from the Torah, Uotil 20 years ago, no Conservative woman or Reform man for that matter donned a tallit to pray. If these are important religious principles, they are certainly not from Sinai.

Halkin rightly asked, "Were they to come to the Wall without prayer shaws as a simple gesture of respect for the traditions of the place, again what sacred principles of their faith would they be sinning? Are there no other places

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**JONATHAN ROSENBLUM** 

Confrontation: The whole point

Jerusalem that they must do it at the one site where it infuriates Unless, of course, confrontation

A WOMAN I know was recently seated on a flight to Israel next to a young Ph.D. from Michigan. The younger woman told her that she was coming to study in a con-

The confrontation minyanim at the Western Wall owes more to politics than to religion

Orthodox "yeshiva," and that mil-lions of dollars had been raised to sponsor students like herself. Asked what else she would be

doing, the young woman said she would be going to the Western Wall to put on a shmatte (old rag). Noocing her seatmate's puzzled look, she continued, You know one of those shmattes," and tried to describe a prayer shawl worn around the neck.

This woman knew oothing about the Kotel other than it had once belonged to Jordan and oow belongs to Israel, and she could not even recall the word for tallit. But she had been primed for the excitement of causing Orthodox Jews to gnash their teeth.

I experienced that same "in your face" attitude this past Rosh Hodesh, when a group of about 10 Women at the Wall stood leaning over the chain behind the men's section singing at the top of their lungs words not even found in the morning prayers. They knew, of course, that they were disturbing every single man at the Kotel, but that was just the point: We will not

frontation advances their cause. The more trouble they can stir up. the better able they are to portray themselves in the eyes of their American hrethreo as a poor, beleaguered minority.

And they are certainly good at provocation. Like the old-time spiritual health as a people.

The most lapsed Italian Catholic still wants the Vatican to remain the Vatican. He would be outraged if a group of Protestant tourists were to come into St. Peter's Square and attempt to conduct a revival meeting. Yet today we Jews are opening up the door for everyone, iocluding Jews for Jesus, to conduct their own public worship at our most sacred site.

The Wall arouses something very deep in the collective Jewish

Fourteen years ago, a young Yale student came to our house on Rosh Hashana still wearing the cardboard kippa he had been given at the Kotel Today, he is the Orthodox rabbi of a thriving community.

Another friend, backpacking around the world, stood before the Kotel and requested God, "If these stones mean anything, and if You exist, give me a sign." At that moment, he was tapped on the back by a rabbi and asked if he would like to visit a yeshiva. He's still there 18 years later.

But if the Kotel becomes a Hyde Park corner for the proclamation of every Jew's politics or personalized religion, our last link with the Temple will he severed and our most enduring national symbol drained of its power.

The writer is a biographer and contributing editor to The Jewish

Bundists who stood ontside synagogues on Yom Kippur eating ham sandwiches, they have chosen their symbols with care. The issue is not the right of anyone to approach the Kotel and pour out his or her heart to God in any way he or she chooses. Rather it is our

o 1989, prime minister Yitzhak Shamir called a Conference on Jewish Solidarity, attended by Diaspora Jewish leaders. The

wind-up of the conference was in a ceremooy at the Western Wall. This Tisha Be'av, the solidarity of the Jewish people suffered a serious defeat at the Western Wall. Conservative Jews were denied the right of worship in the parking lot well outside the prayer area.

Faced with a hostile crowd, the police opted to deoy a basic right and to expel the Conservatives from the area. This is contrary to court rulings with regard to other fundamental rights, such as freedom of expression and the right to demonstrate. Is the right to worship outside the prayer area of the Western Wall any differ-

The High Court split three ways when the issue involved non-Orthodox prayer inside the prayer area. In 1989, the same year as the Shamir Solidarity Conference, the court turned down a petition by non-Orthodox women seeking to be permitted to pray, robed with tallitot and reading from a Torah scroll that they asked to carry with them.
As against the contending views

of justices Menahem Elon and Shlomo Levin on the rights of the non-Orthodox women, court president Meir Shamgar held a middle view, recommending the creation of a committee to work out arrangements permitting the non-Orthodox freedom of worship, with minimal damage to the sensibilities of the Orthodox majority.

During Mandatory times, when it came to the Western Wall, the national institutions of the Zionist movement never permitted religious interests to take priority over national interests. Either the ALLAN E. SHAPIRO

tables have been turned, or Jewish solidarity is no longer a compelling national interest.

Thus, on Tisha Be'av, Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani termed the Conservative worship a "provocation" and implied that the expelled worshipers should be grateful to the police for saving

them from a pogrom.

such disputes are best resolved outside the judicial arena - seems to be bearing fruit with regard to the conversion controversy. There, a committee chaired by Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman bas reportedly achieved a basis for a compromise. A forum including representatives of the con-Orthodox trends is to set criteria Jerusalem police chief Yair for preparation for conversion. Yitzhaki went even further, with the Orthodox monopoly pre-

Either the tables have been turned. or Jewish solldarity is no longer

a compelling national interest

Appearing oo the popular TV news magazine A New Evening. he studiously avoided addressing the participant Conservative spokesman, an ordained rabbi, by her title. (First, "this lady," then "the woman sitting next to me.) Is it now part of the job of the police

to decide who is a rabhi? True, while the 1989 case was before the court, the relevant reguladon on holy places for Jews was amended to specifically bar from the Western Wall religious ceremonies, not in accordance with prevailing custom, that offend the sensibilities of the praying public with regard to the site. Apparently even the police were not prepared to regard this as applying to prayers io the parking lot, which is why the spot was reportedly chosen for the Conservative devotions in preliminary negotiations.

SHAMGAR'S approach - that

served with regard to the final cer-

Clearly Neeman's eothusiasm for privatization does oot carry over from economics to religion. This is as it should be. In religious affairs, the private

and the public are inextricably intermingled, particularly when the religion is Judaism in the Jewish state. However, it should be abundantly clear that the current religious status quo can cootime only on the basis of an accommodation with the 000-Onbodox trends.

The compromise Neeman reportedly brokered is now endargered, because or a new fanaticism engendered by the red, because of a new wave of recent High Court decision man-Reform representative (and a commentator.

Religious Council.

woman, at that) to the Netanya

Even though Menahem Elon, an observant, recognized religious scholar authored this decision, it was accepted with howls of protest from the clerical camp. Later, in 1993, a committee headed by Haini Zadok, a former justice minister, recommended reforms in the appointment and functioning of the religious councils. These recommendations were ignored.

As late as May of this year, State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat issued a special report on the religious councils. She noted the delays of up to 10 years in man-ning the councils, "especially on the basis of political affiliation or religious suitability" of the candidates. Her recommendation was for the enactment of a religious

councils law. The attack on the court by Deputy Minister of Religious Affairs Yigal Bibi is particularly inappropriate. If there was a need for judicial intervencion, it is only because of the obstinate refusal of his own National Religious Party to face reality.

Bihi was once a popular mayor of Tiberias. In those days, he knew how to distinguish between religious observance in the neighborhoods in the heights overlooking the Sea of Galilee and down below, along the waterfront, where the tourists are-concentrated. Since moving to the national political arena, Bihi seems to have lost his sense of direction.

dating the appointment of a The writer is a legal and political





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which lies 150 kilometers east of Quebec City along the south shore of Not far behind Meilleur is

Iraqi oil begins flowing out of Iragi-Turkish pipeline

Canadian woman, 116,

world's oldest person

Sept 24.

of Records.

holder," he said.

ANKARA (AP) - iraq restarted pumping crude oil into an Iraqi-Turkish pipeline for a second sixmonth period under a UN-approved deal yesterday, the Turkish energy

The oil was being loaded onto the 294-metric ton Maltese-flagged tanker Arcadia in the southern Mediterranean Turkish port of Ceyhan to be shipped to buyers, a ministry statement said.

The shipment is the first in the second phase of the UN's oil-forfood program, allowing Iraq to sell \$2 hillion worth of oil over a six-month period to buy food, medicine and other humanitarian

Under the first six-month agreement, which took effect in

> The funeral of LEON SHALIT

who bequeathed his body to science will take place at Har Hamenuhot, Jerusalem, on Thursday, August 21, 1997 at 10:30 a.m.

We shall meet at the main square. The Family

mass destruction.

Friends of Bikur Cholim Hospital in Jerusalem mourn, together with the entire Bikur Cholim Hospital family, the death of

Rabbi YEHUDA KINTSLINGER 57

Anita Susman Chairman of the Board

# Mir astronauts return to earth

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV

DZHEZKAZGAN, NEAR Kazakhstan (AP) - Two weary Rossian cosmonauts returned to Earth Thursday, ending a hardluck tour that included the most serious accidents in the 11-year history of the Mir space station.

The two cosmonauts piloted their Soyuz capsule to a safe landing in the barren sieppes of Kazakstan, completing a six-month journey rife with accidents and breakdowns, including a frighteoing fire and a devastating

Vasily Tsihliyev smiled weakly as he was lifted out of the charred capsule after it came to a stop in the remote desert. He signed autographs as medical technicians brought him into a tent and took his blood pressure, pulse and other measurements.

Asked how he felt. Tsibliyev had a one-word response: "Normal." Deputy Mission Control chief Viktor Blagov told reporters at Mission Control near Moscow that all systems worked fine during the descent. "According to the cosmonauts" reports, they are feeling well," he said.

"I want to congratulate the Russians on a successful landing," said NASA representative Keith Zimmerman told reporters in Moscow. "I'm sure the crew will enjoy seeing their families and are glad to be home." Before the crew departed, they hugged the two cosmonauts who arrived last week and wished them well in their mission on Mir.

"Let's bope that everything that went wrong is leaving with us," cosmonaut Alexander Lazutkin

Lazutkin and Tsibliyev disengaged their Soyuz capsule from the Mir shortly before 1 p.m. Moscow time and touched down at 4:17 p.m.in the desert about 170 kilometers southeast of the central Kazak city of Dzhezkazgan.

Several dozen rescue workers, medics and officials met them on the ground. They were to undergo medical exams before flying to Moscow later in the day.
US astronaut Michael Foale

watched from the Mir as the seven-ton capsule neared Earth. "They became very small and disappeared very fast," Foale said in Russian, and asked his col-

LONDON (AP) - Canadian

Marie-Louise Febronie Meilleur,

who will be 117 years old this

month, is the world's oldest person,

the Guinness Book of Records said

The Quebec woman, described as

a lifelong outdoorswoman, succeeds

to the title last held by Jeanne

Calment, who died this month in her

Meilleur, who will turn 117 on

Aug. 29, has been married twice and

has about 300 descendants. Her fam-

ilv said the secret of her long life

native France at the age of 122.



Mir erew commander Vasily Tsibilyev (left) and flight engineer Alexander Lazutkin celebrate their return to Earth with Russian officials after landing safely in the wastes of Kazakhstan yesterday.

site. "I know it's east of the Aral Sea, but where?" Mission Control operators heard him ask.

Since Soviet times, cosmonauts have landed in the deserts of Kazakstan, a former Soviet republic, several hundred kilometers (miles) from the cosmodrome in Baikonur, from where they blasted off, Russia's space programs continue to use the former Soviet facilities under an arrangement with the Kazak gov-

The Russian media and some space officials have grumbled about the performance of the outgoing crew, saying at least some of their problems appeared selfleagues to point out the landing inflicted. Others, meanwhile, said

American Sarah Knauss, of

Philadelphia, who will be 117 on

birth certificate, baptism certificate,

census records, marriage certificates

and a number of other documents

confirming the women's ages have

been verified by the Guinness Book

"Since Jeanne's death, we've been

inundated with potential record

claims from around the world,"

Guinness Book of Records records-

process of verification, to ensure

that only someone whose age can be

proved beyond any shadow of doubt

can be recognized as the record-

Some claims, including one from a

man living in a remote Lebanese vil-

lage, who is allegedly 135 years old,

were dismissed because of lack of

December, the pipeline running from Kirkuk oil fields to Ceyhan

carried 63.7 million barrels of oil.

Thursday's statement said Iraq

was expected to sell 18 million bar-

rels of crude via Ceyhan by the end

of August by tripling the pumping

Tupras will purchase t.8 million

will be sold from an Iraqi oil port.

Turkey's stale-run refinery

Twelve million barrels of Iraqi oil

UN sanctions were imposed after

Baghdad invaded Kuwait in 1990.

The UN Security Council has said it

will not lift the sanctions until Iraq

has complied with all UN resolu-

tions, including those calling for

the elimination of its weapons of

capacity of the pipeline.

barrels of that amount.

We have an extremely stringent

keeper Clive Carpenter said.

Full documentation, including

their efforts to keep the Mir functioning were oothing short of

"The two have been through one of the most difficult space flights in history," The Moscow Times, an English-language daily, said in an editorial Thursday.

Tsibliyev, the commander, belped keep the orbital hattlewagon going, six years past its intended expiration date in conditions of terrifying uncertainty," the newspaper said.

"His bosses should call it even and give him a hero's welcome." Tsibliyev suffered from an irregular heartbeat while on the Mir, a condition apparently brought on by stress and a lack of sleep,

according to Russian doctors. But space officials say his condition has since stabilized.

INTERNATIONAL

The replacement crew of Anatoly Solovyov and Pavel Vinogradov arrived on the Mir on Aug. 7. Foale, who arrived in May, will remain with them until his replacement arrives in late

September. The new crew, meanwhile, is moving ahead with plans for a difficult repair mission next Wednesday in the ruptured Spektr module, which was damaged in a

collision with a cargo ship in June. The cosmonauts need to reattach power cables to the module's solar panels, which will restore

The cables were disconnected after the collisioo with the Spektr, which had to be sealed off because

it was leaking precious oxygen. As a first step, the cosmonauts and Foale will inspect and photograph the outside of the Spektr on Friday when they fly around the station to redock their Soyuz escape capsule.

He warned that it is too early to determine whether the previous crew or technical failures are to blame for the Mir's run of bad luck. A commission will interview the cosmonauts and make that determination.

"It would be better to wait for the commission to reach its conclusions," Blagov said.

### most of the station's power. Clinton orders federal agencies

By SONYA ROSS

WASHINGTON (AP) - US President Bill Clinton has issued guidelines making it elear that federal workers are guaranteed religious freedom on the job, such as keeping a Bible in the office or wearing a yarmulke to work.

Clinton was to unveil a memorandum ordering the federal government to adopt the guidelines at a White House ceremony vesterday attended by some of the various faith groups who helped write them. Among those are the National Council of Churches, The Ceoter for Law and Religious Freedom, the American Jewish Congress and People for the American

White House official, still be followed.

to permit religious expression speaking on condition of anonymity, said a draft of Clinton's memo says federal agencies must not discriminate on the basis of religion or coerce employees to participate in religious activity by offering an improved or worsened work

> The draft also says agencies. must allow employees to engage in personal religious expression and "reasonably accommodate" religious holy days, even if doing so creates some hardship for the agency, the official said.

situation.

The guidelines do not allow federal workers to use their official positions to campaign for or against religion, and they stipulate that any rules already in place at federal ageocies. such as a ban on-posters, must

"It's a fairly comprehensive catalog of instances... that are likely to arise," said Marc Stern, co-director of the American Jewish Congress's legal department, "All the common complaints that you hear, those are taken care of."

So, Christian employees who work for the government can keep Bihles on their desks. Muslim women can cover their heads, and Jewish men cao wear yarmnikes. Workers would be able to discuss freely their faiths, as long as the eoworkers to whom they are speaking do not object.

The rules reiterate the principle behind Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, which says that employers must accommodate a worker's religious practices uoless it would impose undue hardship on the employer.

# Twins' birthday is India's celebration

By MUNEEZA ARJUMAN

NEW DELHI (AP) - If coincidences were graded, this one woold he an A-plus. Twin brothers born in India on the day the subcontinent gained independence from Britain were separated so that one grew up in Pakistan, the other in

The history of their lives is closely linked with that of their countries. Azhar Sherwani and Zafar Hameed were a year old when their mother allowed her brother and his wife, who was her best friend, to adopt Azhar. The Hameed family moved to Pakistan.

As India celebrates the 50th anniversary of iodependeoce today, Sherwani and Hameed are turning 50. Pakistan celehrated iodependence

"Fifty years of a oation's independent life definitely call for eelehration, especially if you can celehrate fifty years of your own life," Sherwani

In 1948, the year Sherwarii and Hameed were separated, people on both sides of the horder thought that India and Pakistan would share a friendly relatiooship, with easy cross border travel. Adoptions such as Hameed's are not uncommoo in extended Indian families. For a year, there was no question of visas and

passports But relations between the two countries worsened. Three wars were fought. Propaganda machinery on both sides added to the hostility. In 1971, war was followed by the sealing of the

border. Wheo Sherwani married in 1972, his twin could not attend the ceremony. The Sherwani and Hameed families were never directly touched by the violence, and each pros-

pered on their side of the border. Both twins are now successful businessmen, Azhar Sherwani in New Delhi and Zafar Hameed in Lahore, Pakistan.

Delhi is a ten-hour drive from Lahore, but I cao never get into my car and drive over to meet my twin. My niece is getting married, but my children could not come because of visa difficulties," Hameed said during a recent visit to his brother's home in New Delhi. Travel is somewhat easier now, with the Indian and Pakistani governments attempting a rapprochement.
The roads travelled by independent India and

Pakistan have been dissimilar. Large periods of the history of Pakistan were spent under military dictatorships, while India hoasts the world's largest democracy.

India was luckier than Pakistan in many ways. For 16 years after independence they had Nehru to guide them and to allow democracy to catch roots," Hameed said. Mohammed Ali Jinnah, the founder of the state

of Pakistan, died 13 months after the creation of his country. India has problems of its own. Its widespread

corruption, poverty, low literacy levels all find an echo in Pakistan. 'We have fought three crippling wars. The hos-

tility between the two nations has led to greater defense expenditure, something that both nations can ill afford at a time when funds are desperately needed for development purposes," Sperwani said.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his Indian counterpart I.K. Gujral both seem committed to promoting friendly ties, which gives the twins hope.

"Business will definitely prosper and hopefully visas will be easier to come by." Sherwani said. His brother agreed.

While they agree oo many things, their visions of the future are different. Sherwani believes that India and Pakistan should come together and become a superpower in South Asia. Hameed believes that unification is impossible, but good relations are not.



Two years ago the The Sydney Morning Herald asked readers to list what Australian national icons should feature on a new series of stamps. Cruising into easy places in the first five came a salty black goo called Vegemite, a "Drizabone" raincoat and hat, a meat pie of unknown composition, a bronzed lifeguard, and a rotating metal clothes line.

Well, if that's how Australians see themselves symbolized, don't complain, cobber, about the jokes foreigners make.

In that Herald poll dominated by trash food and trivial accoutrements, the cultural icons of Sydney Harbor Bridge and The Opera House came in a joint sixth, the natural wonder of Ayers Rock, seventh. In an obvious wish to roll back the

country's image of a hard drinking country, the readers placed "a can of beer" in a humble ninth place. The only Aboriginal icon to feature was the digeridoo - a sort of musical hollow log made famous by a bearded white man, Rolf Harris, with the moving song "Tie Me Kangaroo Down, Sport.

**Granny Smith** Alas, the digeridoo came in among the "others" below the tenth place, which was claimed by a soggy coconnt-covered chocolate sponge roll. Just the ticket to set alongside that can of beer - perhaps with a Granny Smith.

(This most famous apple variety was found by accident in 1868 after one Maria Smith threw some Tasmanian apple cores into ber garden in Sydney.) The national post office declined to accept the Herald's sterling research.

Washington Post columnist Charles Krauthammer last month disturbed a small homets' nest with an essay praising the legacy of the British Empire, in which he referred to Australia. One enraged Aussie, in a reader's tirade, fumed that "Australia was built on the backs of Irish prisoners" shipped there as convicts for daring to oppose the colonialism "Mr. Krauthammer has failed to justify." Phew! Yes indeed, Aussies are touchy about anything to do with the Poms (British.) In reality, the British government shipped a lot more petty English criminals and

than Irish patriots to Australia. There has of course been a dark side to all this matey, back-slapping bonhomie which in America would ture - narrow, trivial, ritual, and red-

neck racist regarding Aborigines. Twenty years ago in Australia it was common for visitors to be told by otherwise intelligent Australians: Scientists have proved that Abbos have inferior brains. We can't do anything with them." In Tasmania. early settlers simply killed them all.

White Australia

Well, sociologists and events have since proved that such Australians didn't have real human sensibilities. Just as historians have proved that despite the denials of post-war govemments, there was indeed such a thing as an acrive white Australia policy. And it was a policy the Ponunies actively colluded in. The British parliament said this week it will investigate the cases of tens of thousands. maybe 150,000 - of British orphans shipped abroad during World War II

and for decades afterwards. Most were not orphans at all, just abandoned by parents. The official reason was so they could find bener lives. But it seems the real reason may have been to augment the white populations of former colonies - particularly Australia. Just as colonialism still haunts as well as enhances British relations with countries like Australia, so Australia's own sins against those who were there first

are coming back to haunt them. On August 30th, the great outback of Northern Territory will vote under the shadow of a hiner year-old racial debate. The campaign began this week and the region's Aborigines warn it will be hot one. On the table - Aboriginal native title claims to farm lands.

Black bashers Conservative Prime Minister John Howard is trying to quash the claim against fierce opposition from Aborigines and human rights activists. A quarter of Northern Territory people are Aboriginal. About 80 percent of the territory's 1.34 million sq km could qualify for native ritle. Aborigines already have

freehold control over 50 percent of the territory under existing laws. There is a vocal redneck element even a fuzzy Ku Klux Klan chapter in the territory and it is determined to play the race card heavily. Black

bashing, in simple Australian. But black bashing is no more fashionable in real Australia than in Europe or America. Far from it. The 2000 Olympics organizers in Sydney are preparing the Festival of Dreaming - a tribute to Australia's

rich native arts and culture. Lydia Miller, the aboriginal actress heading the project, wants to change for ever the "white Australia"intage of their wide brown land, "I think of it as something like 301 nations -300 indigenous nations and one

recent interview. And, speaking of prejudice, Vegemite isn't even Australian. The "pure vegetable extract" (hah!) was launched in 1923 by a company which, in 1935 was bought by the Kraft. cheese conglomerate. For 62 of its past 74 years, Australia's goocy icon has

been one hundred percent American.

### INDIA Continued from Page 1

New Delhi looks like a bride." said Charu Goel, an accounting student in the crowd of spectators esti-

mated at 200,000 by police. "The message today is loud and clear. We are one, and we will always remain one," Prime Minister LK. Gujral said in a speech after the parade, addressing the crowd from a bandstand set up at the end of the route. He then waved a large national flag presented to him by a group of freedom fighters. Moments later, fireworks lit up the skies over New

Few signs of public enthusiasm were evident in the build-up to the anniversary. Souvenirs were scarce and sold in only two shops in the capital, newspapers reported.

Parliament was summoned for a midnight session to replay the speech by India's first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, redeeming India's "tryst with destiny."

"At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom." Nehru told the nation the night of August 14, 1947 in his high-pitched. Cambridge-accented English "As long as there are tears and suffering, so long our work will not be over." Referring to fellow independence

leader Mohandas Gandhi, Nehru added that "the ambinion of the greatest man of our generation has been to wipe every tear from every From Pakistan, Prime Minister

Sharif reportedly sent his Indian counterpart a note echoing an earlier speech in which he hoped for an end to the blood feud between their countries

"Over the past 50 years we have spent hillions of dollars on defense and fought wars which have harmed both the countries," Sharif said in his speech.

India fought its last war with Pakistan in 1972. Today, its security concerns are within its own borders. Police blamed the explosion that killed seven people and wounded eight in the northeastern state of Assam on Bodo militants, seeking self-rule for their tribe of 4 million

The Bodo rebellion is just one of several tribal revolts in the remote northeast. Another insurgency in Kashmir, a territory also claimed by Pakistan, is smoldering in India's north, claiming more than 15,000 lives in the last

eight years. In a speech prepared for the midnight parliament ceremony, Presideot K.R. Narayanan acknowledged that India had fall-en short of Nehru's pledge on the same platform in 1947 to "abolish poverty, ignorance and disease from among our people." Drinking water, electricity and basic health facilities are still lacking for most, and corruption riddles public affairs, the president said.

According to World Bank figures, nearly half of India's 970 million people are illiterate. A country that 50 years ago was richer than Singapore now has a per capita income of \$340, while Singapore's is \$26.000.

But Narayanan - the first president drawn from India's "untouchable" class - extolled his country's achievement of preserving its democracy and unity.

Until the last moment, details of the midnight ceremony were in doubt, reflecting what many critics . called the tardy and parsimonious planning of the nation's golden jubilee by a divided and ineffectual government

Legislators faulted parliamentary leaders for inviting the speaker of the British House of Commons. Betty Boothroyd, to sit on the dais during the ceremony - to their minds, too much honor to the country that colonized India for 200

For many Indians, the anniversary meant reliving partition, when the British India was splintered into Hindu-dominated India and the offi-

cially Moslem republic of Pakistan. An estimated half a million people were killed in communal slaughter and more than 10 million refugees were shunted across the border, in the largest involuntary migration in recent history. Families - especially Moslem families -

were irrevocably split.

# **NEWSinFOCUS**

# Eye of the storm

The opposition of the Orthodox parties and the Chief Rabbinate to Joyce Brenner's appointment to the Netanya Religious Council has forced/her to reconsider her basic assumptions about religious coexistence, Dan Izenberg reports

nyce Brenner seemed calm and composed last Monday, an hour after the High Court of Justice ruled her appointment tn the Netanya Religious Council was already in effect and her eviction from a council meeting the previous week had been ille-

Sitting in her living room a few days after returning from teaching duties at Yeshiva University in New York, she quielly responded to the phone calls hat flooded in from friends and/acquaintances wishing her luck.

"I didn't really expect this," said Brenner, who was nominated for the post three years ago hy Shosh Arar, the head of the Meretz faction in the Netarya City Council. "I didn't expect to be the center of

The uncomprimising opposition of the Orthod parties and the Chief Rabbinae to her candidacy have forced he to reconsider some basic assumptons she had about religious coexistence. In a deposi-tion to the Hgh Court of Justice, one of her nost vociferous opponents, Netanja Chief Rabbi David Shloush, write that Reform Jews were biggerheretics than Jesus.

"I have a trong personality, but I'm a toleraft person who tends to believe we can all live together with our differences," she said, a note of dobt creeping into her voice. "I hd hoped that all the branches could talk together."

In some ways, Brenner is an ideal choice on the part of the Reform invement to help win the support needs in its fight for legitimacyand power from millions of scular Israelis, who are generally idifferent to and ignorant of relgious issues. Brenner is articulae, modest and low-keyed, by radiates strength, determination and courage without bluster She also has credentials in boh the professional and

Jewish wolds. The 57-lear-old social worker grew up in Brooklyn in a Zionist Her father was an Orthodox rabbi. She received her

women'a rights.

"The Reform movement seemed the place I could stress this more actively and creatively," she said. "I started getting involved in the 1970s. Perhaps it had to do with the birth of my three daughters. My commitment to Israel, Judaism and women's issues were all part of the same thing. It was a way of ensuring that my daughters would be positive Jews."

BRENNER MOVED here in 1976, went back two years later to complete her doctorate at Yeshiva University's Wurzweiler School of Social Work, before settling in Netanya. She has been a member of Kehilat Netanya, the only Reform synagogue in the city,

She has also been involved in public affairs on a voluntary basis, serving as chairwoman of the Social Workers' Association committee on the status of women and a member of the now-defunct Netanya Women's Council. She was also a founder of the Women's

public functionary who is seeking to build a base to launch a public or political career. In the past few days, she has turned down requests for television interviews in order to deflect attention from herself and cool tensions with the Orthodox community.

In the 1993 local elections,

MA and Ph.D from Yeshiva University and has taught there Brenner said Judaism was cen-

tral to her identity and one can sense that in even the most superficial visit to her home, in which Jewish art - paintings and candelabras - is displayed prominently. Her transition from Orthodox to Reform Judaism was morivated largely hy her concern with

almost since the day of her arrival.

Awareness Center in Netanya.

But Brenner is not the type of

Meretz won three of the 27 municipal council seats and was therefore entitled to two or three slots on the city's religious coun-



Joyce Brenner at the Netanya Religious Council meeting which she was forced to leave: I regard myself as a religious woman according to my own definition and the definition of the Reform movement.'

cil. Arar asked Rabbi Mira Raz, spiritual bead of Kehilat Netanya, to recommend someone from her congregation for one of the posts. Raz suggested Brenner. Four years and three High Court of Justice petitions later, Brenner is finally a member in good standing of the council, the first representative of the Reform Movement ever to have been appointed to a

religious council. She does not yet have any clear idea of what she will do on it. It is all new to her. But Brenner, Raz and other members of the Reform community are currently fashion-

ing a program. "I thought I could advance women's needs in the council," Brenner said.

"Women's voices should be heard. I thought that because I'm a social worker, I could do this in a nice way, without antagonizing the other members."

Beyond that, Brenner believes

We are a religious body representing the entire community," she said. "Minorities have the right to be heard in it. If everyone's money is being spent, everyone bas the right to know how it's spent.

Brenner does not want to indulge in the vitriolic rhetoric that is so characteristic of Israeli public debate, especially when it comes to religious issues. She said she was hurt by Shloush's claims that Reform Jews are heretics who deny God and his Torah and are more illegitimate than the founder of Christianity, who believed in the Creator,

"I regard myself as a religious Reform movement," Brenner said. "I observe commandments, to grade them. I am a Jew in the

She also denied that she would seek to act in contravention of religions law.

There is a major dispute over how to interpret Halacha," she said. "I don't think it is my place on the council to hreak down Halacha. What I want to do is to expand the services offered to Reform Jews."

that as a Reform Jew she can better represent secular residents who do not feel comfortable dealing with Orthodox officials. She also believes there is need for more scrupulous supervision of council spending.

32 A.A. observed the Sabbath and other commandments."

woman according to my nwn definition and the definition of the hut in a different way. I prefer not full sense of the word."

A matter of priorities

abli Uri Regev, head of venting Reform Jews from religious coincils He referred to a the Reform Movement's joining religious councils as poeting as Friday convened by Israel Religious Action vigorously as it resisted the Chief Rabbis Eliahn Bakshi-Conter which fought alongside conversion law? Donor and bismel Meir Lau to Menetz for Joyce Brenner's Texpect that the counce issue process the High Court decision Center, which fought alongside appointment to the Netanya Religious Council and finded her legal representation, seemed scarcely perturbed this week by the prospect of new legislation to prevent more Reform appoint-

He was simply preoccupied with an even fresher development the brutal expulsion by police of a Conservative congregation reciting evening trayers near the Western Wall on Tisha Be av. Could the Reform Movement in the US be expected to resist a law pre-

of religious pluralisms will be the appointing Bacamer to the reli-main issue on the agenda of prous council. Diaspera Jewry and American Deputy Religious Affairs Jewry in particular in the com. Minister Arych Gamliei (Shas) ing years, Regev said. There was quoted as having said ourpackage. The question of Reform representative on the Reform participation in the reliminary religious, council was tantagious councils is only one of mount to appointing a member them. One of the central issues of Hamas to the defense miniswill be the night to pray at the liter's bineau.

Western Wall I am sine this will if anyone thinks the Jewish be the subject of many sermons, world will remain quiet while during the High Holidays. The government authorizes the But Regret muckly recovered banding of Reform members on and found sufficient cause for such grounds, he is mistaken, indicatation over the issue of the Regret warned.

will be several issues in this ing the meeting that seating a package. The question of Reform representative on the

indignation over the issue of the Regey warned. -DI



Leah Shadiel: the first woman to be appointed to a religious council

# An Orthodox forerunner

the three-year saga of Joyce law but in the petty spheres of Brenter's appointment to local politics. the Netanya Religious Council stir memories for Leah Shakdiel, th iconoclast who first broke the mile Orthodox monopoly on the reigious councils. In 1988, aler a battle that lasted

more than tvo years and was publicized all over the world, Shakdiel became the first woman ever appointed to religious council. There was me key difference. Brenner is a leform Jew. Shakdiel is Ortbodo. The rabbinate opposed Brener because she is Reform. It opposed Shakdiel because she a woman. Shakdiel's ory unfolded in the

unlikeliest of places: the remote development own of Yeroham. In January 1986 the Yeroham Labor Party faction, which won the local election, nonnated Shakdiel to

serve on the reigious council.

According t Shakdiel, opposition to her appintment originated ment not in the high pheres of religious delay.

But the issue snowballed. When

the local council and the local rabbinate failed to reach agreement on Shakdiel's appointment, the matter was referred to religious affairs minister Josef Burg. Burg tried to use bureaucratic technicalities to avoid a decision to bar Shakdiel because he knew such a decision would not stand up in

September 1986 the Association for Civil Rights in Israel went public with the dispute, turning Shakdiel into an international figure. Then the Chief Rabbinate passed a ruling declaring a woman could not serve on a religious council.

Shakdiel petitioned the High Court of Justice, which eventually ordered the religious affairs minister (hy this point it was Zevulun Hammer) to authorize her appointment. He did so without further

But things have changed since then, especially since the assassination of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, Shakdiel said. Several years ago, when the High Court ordered interior minister Yitzhak Peretz to register Reform convert Shoshana Miller as a Jew, he resigned rather than obey the order. Today, however, "if a minister

does not want to carry out a ruling of the High Court, nothing happens." Shakdiel said. (In fact, Religious Affairs Minister Eli Suissa was dismissed from his post this week after refusing to sign the notification of Brenner's appointment, and refusing to resign.) Everyone knows the life of the Supreme Court justice [who makes that ruling] is in danger," continues Shakdiel. "Listen to what the Orthodox permit themselves to say against the institutions of the state. It wasn't like that in 1988. I don't think things will work this time the way they did

DOV DOMBROVITZ, the chairman of the Netanya Religious Council, does not understand why a Reform Jew would want to sit on the council. "How can a person participate in

a body which contradicts his beliefs?" he asked.

"I contend that a person cannot provide the resources to supply the needs of those who believe in Halacha when he does not believe in Halacha himself." Dombrovitz is not disturbed by

the fact that the majority of the people for whom the religious councils have heen established (that is, the entire Jewish popula-tion) do not accept Halacha. There are 200 synagogues in

Netanya and only one of them is Reform," be said. "I doubt that Reform Jews make up even one-10th of 1 percent of the Jewish population of the country."

Dombrovitz stresses that he has nothing personal against Brenner. And he means it. The two are neighbors in a two-story building containing just four apartments. Brenner and Dombrovitz's wife are close friends.

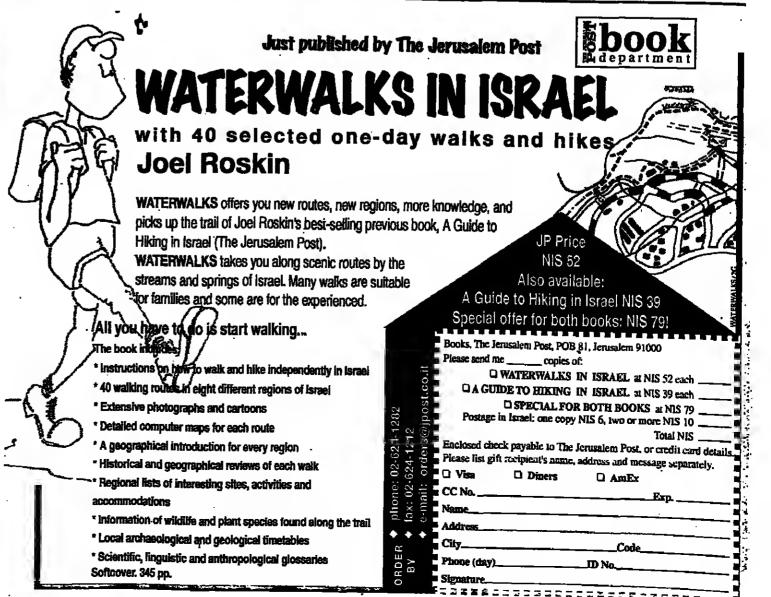
But as far as he is concerned, Brenner belongs to a movement

the council and destroy it from within. He believes she will try to implement decisions that contradict Halacha.

For example, he said, the Reform movement helieves women may don tallit and tefillin

when they pray.
"Tomorrow, we will propose spending money to renovate a ritual bath," Dombrovitz said.
"Brenner will say we should use the mnney to huy tefillin for

See BRENNER, Page 12



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# Waiting for Albright

The enthusiasm discemible in Israel over US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's potential diplomatic debut here is eerily reminiscent of the glee that preceded the arrival of Henry Kissinger 24 years ago after the Yom Kippur War.

Many Israelis acted as if Kissinger's personal involvement in the dispute with Arab states symholized their emergence as major players in the internacional arena. This attitude led Bernard Redmont. a prize-winning correspondent who covered Kissinger's negotiations with North Vietnam in the 1970s, to remark: "The Israelis don't know what they're in for."

The Wall Street Journal's "Notes for the Record" last Tuesday was equally acerbic in evaluating Albright's capacity for ruthless diplomacy, predicting that Albright may be quite tough with

She would likely press demands for a halt to settlement building in Jerusalem and the West Bank, which Washington seems to consider nearly as much an obstacle to peace as terror attacks.

There can be no winks, no dou-

ble standards, no double meanings; when it comes to security in the Middle East," Albright said in a recent speech to the National Press Club in Washington.

Officials close to Netanyahu believe that Albright may press for further implementation of the 1993 Oslo Accords, or more Israeli troop withdrawals in the West Bank, assuming that Arafat meets demands to crack down on

There also are hopes that Albright will try to circumvent the excruciatingly incremental Oslo process, and get the parties to launch final-status talks, a senior official said.

Israel's main problem in dealing with Albright could turn out to be that Netanyahu has tougher ideas than the Clinton administration about what it means to fight terrorism, and Israel could end up being pushed to yield to Washington's view.

In that sense, the Palestinian Authority may gain more from Albright's visit than Israel. Her presence could instill a restored sense of confidence among Palestinians that the peace process

Dennis Ross's visit this week was a prelude to the eventual Mideast debut of Madeleine Albright. Who will gain and who will lose when the Secretary of State sets foot in the region? Jay Bushinsky writes



Dennis Ross and Yasser Arafat in Ramallah: Some observers compared Ross's mission with that of Richard Holbrooke in the Balkans: "a desperate attempt to patch up a peace agreement fatally flawed by reluctance to address fundamental issues."

having to lose too much ground to Islamic extremists whose tacit support he needs to remain in control. Seasoned diplomatic observers contend that even before Albright's arrival, Israel has yield-

is moving forward, without Arafat ed too much ground to the Americans in matters of security. They argue that CIA involvement in monitoring security talks with the Palestinians has weakened Israel's ability to make demands of the Palestinians on its own.

As Ma'ariv's Hemi Sbalev put it, "Netanyahu's problem is that Albright effectively snatched from his hands the decision as to whether Arafat has fulfilled the role assigned to him.

Shaley contends that "the moment

Albright announces that her visit indeed will take place she will have granted Arafat a clean bill of health and will substantially reduce Netanyahu's ability to demand additional concessions from him."

Netanyahu wants the PA to literal-

rorism by destroying its infrastructure, arresting some 230 Hamas activists and confiscating their weapons and ammunition. That may be more than Arafat can

Soll, Arafat will have to go quite far in conviocing the Americans that he is nipping terrorist initiatives in the bud, following up on Israeli intelligence tips and sharing his intelligence data with them, a senior source said.

Arafat may find it difficult to meet eveo US security demands. The Pales tinian leader was reportedly curt this week when members of Ross's peacemaking team warned him that one more terrorist attack could bring

an end to the Oslo process." "Don't ask me to act as an Israeli agent," Arafat was said to have replied.

The moment Albright announces that her visit Indeed will take place she will have granted Arafat a clean bill of health and will substantially reduce

Netanyahu's ability to demand additional concessions from him.'

The comment led some observers to compare Ross's missioo with that of Richard Holbrooke in the Balkans: "a desperate attempt to patch up a peace agreement fatally flawed by reluctance to address fundamental

If Israel and the Palestinians



US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright

prove uoable to go back to the peace table at this time, Albright could end up putting off her trip to the Middle East for a matter of

weeks or months. But barring the collapse of the peace process or the scrapping of the Oslo Accords, she will be here sooner or later.

The crowning moment of her stay undoubtedly would be a tripartite summit in which Netanyahu and Arafat shake hands and proclaim their determination to stay or the peace track.

Speculation circulating in informed quarters in Jordan centers on the possibility ofan expand-

ed summit under Albight's auspices, that would include King Hussein and Egypt's President Hosnî Mubarak.

Such a meeting would be a major media event, bu not necessarily a turning point icthe convo-luted history of Middle Eastern



Lenny Ben-David (né Davis): "It's a transformed loyalty from an American citizen of Jewish faith to an Israeli Jew of

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# Mr. Davis goes to Washington

Tor Lenny Ben-David, the archetypical Zionist ideal-ist, the dream just keeps

getting better.
On Sunday night he leaves Israel for Washington to take up his new position as deputy chief of mission at the Israel Embassy, where he'll be second in command to Ambassador Eliyahu Ben-Elissar. But he won't need anyone to meet him at the airport to show him where to go and how to get around because Ben-David is heading hoose, the central character in the classic story of

"local boy makes good." He returns to the US, 15 years after having made aliya to inaugurate the Israel office of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, where he had worked for 10 years and was known by his American

name, Lenny Davis. Working in Washington and Jerusalem was the perfect preparation for Ben-David's new undertaking — which he says he's taking on with repidation and love" — as it gave him 25 years' experience

working on the Arab-Israeli conflict. "It is a huge responsibility, at a very critical time in the peace process," Ben-David says of his new job. "That peace process has 10 be explained — it is not neces-sarily understood," be it due to media reporting or the way the Arabs present their case. "Making

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An American immigrant returns to Washington next week to take up the No. 2 post at the Israeli Embassy, Elli Wohlgelernter speaks to Lenny Davis

Israel's sacrifices understood and the dangers facing the country is going to be a challenge for me," says Ben-David. His joh will be to work with Congress, the administration, and with the media, but the 45-year-old Ben-David is reluctant to discuss US-related diplomade issues prior to presenting his credeotials in Washington.

But on the other hig issue he faces, Ben-David is more forth-

"The Israel-US Jewish reladonship is at a critical stage. I fear there is a lack of understanding on both sides, regarding the concerns and the realities the other faces." He cites the example of a secular Israeli who told him that she had gone to a Reform synagogue in the US and felt like she was in a church; on the other side, there's the non-observant Jew in America who scratches his head over secular Israelis who spend Rosh

Hashana at the beach. "They can't understand the secular nature of Israelis," says Ben-David, "It reflects a lack of knowl-

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edge of how the other half lives. Education, if I can be a part of that, is the way to help bridge

some of that gap." There is also the issue of Israel's political system and bow American Jews perceive it.

'The Israel-US Jewish relationship Is at a critical stage. I fear there is a lack of understanding on both sides.

"American Jewish activists are very concerned about Israeli political reform. Whether as a direct result or not, last year's democratic election gave power to Orthodox and haredi Jews. It creates a problem: are you for democracy except when it 'gores your ox'? If some-body in this country doesn't like the growth of the right-wing con-servative coalidon in the United

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States, can they challenge the way democracy works? Or proclaim that the USA isn't democratic? It requires an understanding of the political system bere, but it also requires a very deep understanding of the nature of American Jewry."

THE PEOPLE who know him well say there is no one more qualified for the position in Washington. "When you talk about the attributes for the job, you have to know Israel well, you have to know Hebrew well, and you have to know yid-dishkeit well," said David Clayman, Israel director of American Jewish Congress. "You also have to know the American poliocal system, you have to know Washington well, and you have to know the American Jewish community well. There are very few who have all these attributes, and Lenny has them all."

BEN-DAVID recognizes that he's got an advantage over most Foreign Ministry officials sent overseas on diplomatic missions. "I don't have to learn the idioms, I don't have to learn the difference betweeo Kansas City, Missouri, and Kansas City, Kansas. I know the number of senators and congressman, I know The Hill switchboard number by heart, and I know where to look in The Washington Post for the Congressional schedule as well as Dunesbury, so in that regard my job in Washington will be easier."

The one hitch, perhaps, is an issue that was raised among some American Jews when his nomination was first announced in May the question of dual loyalty. never heard it raised in Israel, and I'm truly thankful for that," says Ben-David. "It's a sign of acceptance of olim - I credit Natan Sharansky for paviog the way to some degree. It's an understanding of the immigrant nature of the state," he explains.

The point is, it's a transformed loyalty, from an American citizen of Jewish faith to an Israeli Jew of American birth."

It was there in the nation's capital, growing up the typical American kid cheering for his bometown baseball team — "I can still name everyone on the '65 Senators and

what position they played" - that his Jewish and Israti - and embassy - consciousnes took root. "Growing up in Vashington,

DC, I went to school at he Hebrew Academy [where he not his wife at the age of 10] with ne children of the diplomats, such is Ya'acov Herzog and Avraham larman. I have a letter from Ya'aov Herzog, who was then the DOM [deputy chief of mission | the psidon I'm taking - congratulating me on my Bar Mitzvah, and saying how well he was sure I was goin; to do, and how sorry he was that a couldn't attend. That's a letter hat's going to be hanging in m; office in

Washington. The Zionist idealisn that drives him still today, Ben-David says, was "an engine that was installed in the vehicle by my parents. I grew up with legends of them sending suff to the yishuv before '48. M; father was an eogineer in the US Army, and he got permission in the '60s to go to Israel and to teach for a short period. So it's aways been a Zionist family - my grandmother in Oltaw: was the founder of Mizrachi n Canada."

After high school Ben-David spent a year learning in Yeshivat Kerem B'Yavneh, where some of his classmates were killed in the War of Attrition on the Suez front.

Israeli Arabia

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SALIGUE IN ANG

"I attended several fineral of boys from the yeshiva. Asan American kid between high scrool and college, you can imagine the impact that such a thing had in me."

While in college at Yesbiva University, he started working at AIPAC as an inten, and it was there that he met Binyamin Netanyahu. Netanyahu asked Ben-David to help im set up an internacional conference on terror-ism in Jerusalem. "Ie's very persuasive: he convinced me to go to Israel for a month.

So when his old friend phoned him earlier this year with a request, Ben-Davit took the call.

Bibi's argumen was basically 'We need you.' Its hard to turn down the prime traister of Israel when he says he neds you. Maybe there's a lack of Zonism (in society now] but inded that's how I felt. Call it still part of the aliya process -- aliya is not only moving here physically bu contributing to the State and to the Jewish people.

"Making aliya vas the ultimate dream of a Zionit Jew. And now, perhaps, this is he extension of



# Mission of goodwill or mission impossible?

The visit by Israeli-Arab dignitaries to Syria this week might not have brought the twn countries' givernments closer together, hu it can mark up one major achievement - uniting Moledet leder Rehavam Ze'evi and Metetz leader Ynssi Sarid in cnnde nation of their behavior.

Among the statements thich prnynked the ire of the twn politicians who rarely agee on any political issue was ve call hy MK Ahdul Wahab Daawsbe (Democratic Arah Party to an enthusiastic audience in the Yarmuk refugee camp for the Palestinians be given the full "right of return" - rom the Golan Heights to Jeruslem. His encouragement to the residents of the camp to eturn to Palestine, if not you then your sons; and if not yoursons, then your grandchildren, was raised for discussion in a special Knesset plenum delate on the

Another DAP MK who received special atention here was Ahdul Malif Dahamshe, who declared: "Jalestine and Syria are one himeland. The Arah people wil win hy the sword; the victor will be won hy the jihad of the Arab world." And his party colleague MK Taleb a-Sanaa reportedly said he hoped for a Syrin victory.

The delegation of 42 Israeli Arahs — including mayors, Knesset members and journalists - arrived a Damascus last Friday for a eek-long visit at the invitation of the Syrian government and with the hlessing of the Israel authorities. The itinerary injuded a meeting With Syrian President Hater Assad and Foreign Minister Farouk Shar. Some members of the grop also met with Nawaf Hawimeh and Ahmed Jibril, the hads of two major Palestinian terror groups opposed to he Oslo Accords and which o not recognize Israel's righto exist.

The Jerustem Post inter-viewed MK Illah Tarif (Labor) hy phone fim his Damascus hotel room o Wednesday morning, the dayafter he publicly slated: "I amn love with Assad" and "I was armed by Shara." The terms "in love" and 'charmed" wre still relevant for Tarif the moling after.

"It's true lused these words.
The leadersh is very warm and congenial. Iwas captivated by Assad's applach - his modesty. He acted as he was one of us. He was charming. We had this image of him as someone who is cold and distant," Tarif said.

Tarif, a Druse, has the rank nf captain in the IDF. He is the first IDF officer to officially visit Syria and meet with the presi-

Tarif rejected the possibility that Assad's behavior could be an act for the delegation's bene-

"I've heard he behaves warmly like this with others," he said. "As for Shara, he is an intelligeot and pleasant persm., which is why I said what I did."

Tarif complained that Foreign Minister David Levy did not meet with the group before it left to explain Israel's stand on Syria and Lebanon.

Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav, who is responsible for Arab affairs, gave the visit his hlessing and the participants were hriefed by Foreign Ministry officials. Katsav later condemned the behavior of some of the delegates and said the MKs speaking against Israel in Syria have ruled the the service out as fitting leaders of the communities they are meant to represent. He also said they betrayed the trust the state had placed in

Tarif rejected the possibility that Assad was exploiting the delegation to play off the coalition and opposition and Israel and the Palestinians, although the president scomed both Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahn and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat during the meeting.

"The manipulation is more for domestic needs." Tarif said

He later stressed, however, that Assad is interested in the peace camp in Israel and would like to see Labor leader Ehnd Barak in power. The main message from Assad, according to Tarif, is that he feels he could make peace with Barak.

"He said it several times. The Syrians want to influence public opinion in Israel, throughout the peace camp.
"Assad said: 'We are now

fighting for peace and this is the most important fight. It is one which will not have victims and we should unite to win this war.' This marks a tremendous change in the Syrian perspective towards a real conciliation with

Israel, in my opinion.

Tarif pointedly hrushed aside a question on whether he - as an MK and IDF officer - had asked about the fate of the Israeli MIAs

The Israeli Arab delegates who visited Syria this week made some surprising declarations. "I am in love with Assad," said Sallah Tarif. The Labor MK explains why in an interview with Liat Collins



Syrian president Hafez Assad (right) greets Labor MK Sallah Tarif: 'I was captivated by Assad's approach - his modesty.

go according to the Oslo agree-

Darawshe later rejected the

eriticism of him and told

reporters he had not said any-

thing in Syria that he had not

Palestinians.

TARIF SAID he had reservations about the behavior of some of the delegates on the trip. He is since I support the Oslo Accords quick ic point on that he boycotted the visit to the refugee camp at which Darawshe had made his call for Palesninians to

"I am sorry for such statements (as Darawshe's]," Tarif said. "They cannot help and are just

from the Battle of Sultan offering illusions to those said before in Israel. Meretz leader Sarid rejected Palestinians in Syria. I preferred not to take part in the trip to the Darawshe's call for a Palestinian can't' be a party to these things

"Each side can amuse itself with its dreams - dreams can't and I believe that everything will be censored - but practically speaking, the right of return cannot be realized. No serious, ments and negotiations with the responsible person can consider allowing millions of refugees into Israel," he said.

Meanwhile, Moledet's Ze'evi called for the parliamentary

immunity of the MKs to be lifted so they could be prosecuted. Tarif tried to play down the criticism the visit has elicited

"Unfortunately in Israel, the politicians and media are trying to deflect attention from the importance of this historic delegation - which was a gesture of goodwill hy President Assad at the time our government was passing [preliminary reading of] the Golan Heights law; making strong statements on the settlements of the Golan; and when the peace process has came to a

"What Darawshe said - as 1 understand it - was that they have the right of return. This is something which is on the agenda for the final arrangements with the Palestinians. I don't understand what the fuss is about, just because he said it enthusiastically to an audience of Palestinians?

You should make no mistake. The MKs speak like this in the Knesset too," Tarif said. He said the whole Arah world

knows that Israel is an established fact and negotiates with it. "We are a mission of good-will," Tarif said. "Israel, since [Yitzhak] Rabin, has been asking for gestures. To at least meet with the Arabs if not with the Jews. And he [Assad] has made the gesture while we caused the hreakdown in the talks with Syria and [the] Palestinians,"

Much of the criticism of the trip revolved on the way a delegation of Israeli citizens is being described in Syria as "Arabs from 1948."

"It bothers me that some are not identifying themselves as Israelis and are acting as if they have come from an anonymous country," Sarid said. "I would expect them to say there, in Damascus, that 'We are MKs from Israel - Israeli citizens democratically elected and even if we have complaints, we are proud of our joint identity as Israeli Arabs."

Tarif said, however, in meetings with official state figures including Assad and Shara - the and said he had noted the sup-Syrians have used the word "Israel."

"They definitely use the term," Tarif said. "The term 'Arahs of 1948' is used because the people here [in Syria] are still not ready for words like 'peace with Israel.' But he [Assad] is preparing the people for peace with

He said the Syrian media are

giving the visit by the MKs extensive coverage.

These messages are reaching the Syrian people and are at the top of the news agenda here."

THE VISIT m Damascus coincided with a scandal in Israel over an IDF major's statement that the army is recruiting Druse nfficers to stop them frnm joining Hamas or niher terrnr groups. The officer was repri-manded and faces dismissal from the IDF for the statement, which was widely condemned.

farif, a leading memne, of the Druse community, had not heard the details of the story. He was shocked when he realized his statements about being in Inve with Assad followed hard on the heels of the officer's claim.

"What I said ahout Assad is a matter of realpolitik. He made a strong impression on me. This does not mean I'm not a good Israeli citizen," Tarif said. Regarding the statement by the officer, I have often said unfortunately many still look on us strangely although we serve in the army, are loyal citizens and have paid the price. It is more than frustrating."

One of the two Druse 1DF soldiers badly wounted this week in Lehanon comes from 'tarif's own village, Julis.

Tarif did not see any irony in the fact that while the Israeli-Arab delegation was welcomed in Damascus, there were Katyusha attacks on northern Israel and IDF casualties and a fatality in Lehanon.

The situation in Lebanon has been like this for years," he said, adding the solution is a comprehensive peace with Syria and Lehanon. "Our problem in Lehanon involves Syria. If you don't make an agreement with Syria you haven't done anything. Syria is strong and it is a power in the Arab world. But there is a willingness to make peace."

Assad told the delegation Syria wants peace but is keeping its options open;

Tarif stressed Syria's strength port for Assad within the st

"The message of peace is filtering down to the ordinary people, the market vendors and taxi drivers we men Everywhere we went, we were warmly received," Tarif said.

He conceded that the group is likely to have a very different welcome when it returns to Israel today.

# What does Assad want?

t fir glance, Syrian Presient Hafez Assad's invitation to a group of Israeli Arahand Druse seemed little more the fulfilling a need to find someheerleaders south of the border

But some lacli analysts say it showed that Assad has learned something inhe years of negotiating with I ael: that when he speaks in an Israeli, the entire country seem to listen.

the Syrians o suggest thi they are sall keen on seeig ihe process made forward," sas Martin Kram director of Aviv Univ sity's Dayn Center Middle Studies. "It's kind of conult with Israel, t Israelis of a d ferent kind.

"There things Assad can't s in public, b only in privat and then he c

always determined them. And hatever he tells to invite Jewish politicians for talks in 1996 under then-prime talks in 1996 under then-prime minister. Shimon Peres, was to the Americas, Kramer said.

Kramer, a bding researcher talks.

Kramer, a bding researcher talks.

Kramer feels it is better for Suria to maintain a dialogue with

and author outhe Arah world, distinguishes between the Israeli-Arah degation's public exposure in S ia and how their private talks wat.

Syrian medididn't even use the word Israela referring to the dozens of politians, MKs, business people an journalists who visited Damajus this week, calling them ply the "1948 Arabs." But printely, Assad was busying relaying messages to Israeli leaders He replied to

Labor Party chairman MK Ehud he feels he can wait one year or Barak's commitment to continue so for a national unity governthe peace talks begun hy prime minister Yitzhak Rahin.

Assad was said to have responded that he wasn't sure whether he could reach a settlement with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahn, but that he hoped he could do so with

"The assertion that he can't deal with Netanyahu but he can peaks in an Israeli, the entire deal with Barak is important, ountry seen to listen.

It's a ver low-cost way for acknowledgment that he draws a distinction

Meeting with israeli-Arabs "is a very low-cost way for the Syrians to suggest that they are still keen on seeing the peace process move forward."

hetween Israelis." Not long ago, Assad failed to distinguish between Labor and wants

--- Martin Kramer

Likud, Barak and Netanyahn, viewing them as two sides of the same coin. Today, Kramer says, Assad exploit the differences - if only to demonstrate to the Clinton administration that Syria can talk to Israelis.

Assad's failure

Syria to maintain a dialogue with Israel through the Jewish state's Arah population, than not at all. He hopes that such dialogue could at least prevent an out-

break of war. "It is not altogether against Israel's interest to have this channel, given the lack of other channels," he says. "If Assad has reached the conclusion that no Israeli government can make concessions, then he would have to make preparations for war. If

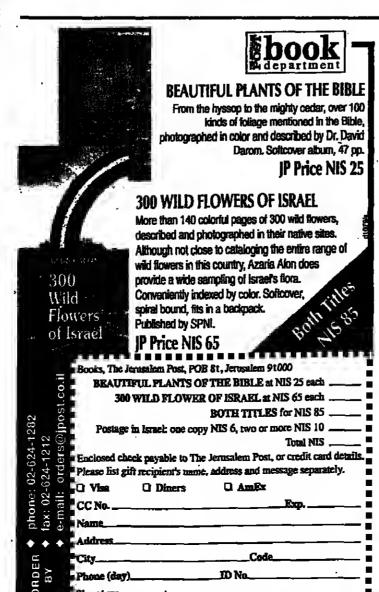
ment, he can wait."

The question is, however, what will Assad's next move be? Will he follow up his meetings this week by inviting Jewish politicians who have publicly called for a full Israeli pullback from the Golan Heights? Will he sponsor a meeting of Jewish leftwing intellectuals with his choice

of Syrian writers and artists?

Here Kramer has his doubts. Assad would regard extending an invitation to Israeli Jews as cnnceding tn Jerusalem's demands for normalization before his canditions are met for

a peace agreement, Kramer says. The problem with Assad is that he doesn't have a next step,' Kramer continues. "What he did now does not involve a concession. The problem with Assad is that he doesn't widen the circle."





gui En sea uic

# Bitter choices: Israel's chemical dilemma

Should Israel join the 97 countries that have already ratified the **Chemical Weapons Convention** - and open its facilities for inspection? Steve Rodan reports

anuary 1993: It might have been winter in Paris, but inside the huge convention hall it was the spring of optimism for then-foreign minister Shimon Peres as he participated in the festive signing of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

After initial hesitation, Israel agreed to sign and over the next few months government officials were optimistic that the peace process would give rise to a Middle East ready to discuss the elimination of chemical and eventually of all nonconventional weapons.
Today, more than four years

later, the opposite has occurred. The peace process has ground to a halt and Israel's Arab neighbors are amassing chemical weapons and ballistic missiles at a pace that would indicate an effort to counter Israel's purported nuclear

Talk about bad timing. Now Israel is being asked to ratify the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) that would result in full reporting of any capability as well as being open to inspections of secret facilities.

The quescon is should Israel raufy and when? The government is tom between radification and the possible exposure of its oooconventional arsenal to Arab enemies or refusing to ratify and heing subjected to economic sanc-

"It's one of the most important strategic dehates this country has seen in many years." a senior government source says.

"Israel is in a dilemma and any decision it makes will have serious repercussions." Time is short. The CWC took effect on April 29 and so far 97 countries have rati-

average growth prospects.

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fied the treaty. Some officials say Israel has only weeks to do the same before it comes up against

international pressure.

As a result, the issue is being feverishly discussed in the Defense Ministry and within the ministerial committee on security. Israeli officials say it is clear that this will be the only country in the Levant ratifying the treaty. Most Arab countries refuse to sign the CWC undl Israel signs the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. This includes Egypt and Syria, both of which have large chemical weapons arsenals. Iran has signed the treaty, which has been raofied in parliament, but Teheran has not delivered the raofication notice to

the United Nations.

"The issues are security and deterrence," says Gerald Steinberg, director of the Arms Control and Proliferation Research Program at Bar-Ilan University's Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies. "The question is whether Israel gets deterrent value from ambiguity on chemical weapons. "The second issue is the impact on the chemical industry. Countries that don't sign will pay a large penalty if the requirements of the treaty are

The CWC is regarded as the most intrusive and complex treaty ever enacted. The goal of the convention is to eliminate chemical weapons by the year 2007. Each of the signatories pledges to begin reporting on its past and current chemical weapons stockpiles and facilities within 30 days and to start destroying them within 90

Under the treaty, a country can challenge the veracity of the information given hy another sig-

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Chemical battlefield: IDF soldiers train for the worst.

natory. So, a North African nation that has ratified the treaty can demand an inspection of Israel's facilities, accusing them of harboring unreported chemical weapons.

The most likely target is the Nuclear Research Center at Dimona.

The only way a country car block such an inspection is to obtain a majority of the executive body of the Organization of the Prohibitioo of Chemical Weapons. The body must be convinced that the request is frivolous and that such a facility could not possibly contain chemical weapons. A country demanding such an inspection cannot include its representatives on the multinational team that would visit the

For Israeli officials, the ramifica-

tions of such a convention are dizzying. Israel has for decades resisted international pressure to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and for inspections of the

couló keep all of their weapons. But the two or three countries that ratify the treaty would use it solely to get into our facilities and

would refuse to sign the CWC and

The CWC is regarded as the most intrusive and complex treaty ever enacted. The goal of the convention is to eliminate chemical weapons by the year 2007.

Dimone facility. Officials cannot fathom agreeing to any outside examination of the site.

"Ratifying the CWC would give the Arabs an immediate advantage." a government expert says. "Most of the Arah countries

learn everything that they've been dying to know about us.

The question now regards tactics. The ministerial committee is itself divided on the issue. In a meeting on July 9. National Infrastructure Mioister, Ariel

Sharon warned against ratifying the CWC, saying the move would endanger Israel. Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai suggested that Israel ratify the agreement and rely on US support in interpreting the treaty.

At one point, according to a source who monitored the meeting. Sharor accused Mordechar of oeing loc close to the Americans. Mordechai denied this, saying. "I am operating strictly in an objective manner. Our relations with the Americans are excellent. I believe it is good that the US is on our side." Neither Mordechai nor Sharon would discuss his position on the Chemical Weapons Convention.

The discussions in the government on whether to recommend ratification of the CWC is being chaired by David Ivry, special adviser to Mordechai and head of the Committee on Arms Control.

Ivry's committee has not drafted any recommendations hut the chairman is said to feel that Israel will eventually have to ratify the treaty. lvry has refused to be interviewed on the subject.

A key issue is what conclusions the Arahs will draw from their knowledge of any Israeli chemical weapons program. Some experts argue that they are highly interest-ed in Israel's chemical weapons capability precisely because they themselves are producing such

deterrence to an Arab chemical weapons attack

Avner Cohen, senior fellow the US Institute of Peace who specializes in nuclear proliferation and arms control, says the most important question is whether smeli security requires chemical

"I think the imeguivocal answer isno. Cohen says "The military utility of chemical weapons was never demonstrated in the battle. fied in the first place and I cannot see any conceivable situation in which israel would be persuaded to use chemical weapons.

The deterrent value of chemical veapons for tsrael, given its nucter image, is very marginal." Coher disagrees with Isracli defens experts who argue that exposing an absence of chemical weapors would actuatty encourage Anb states to launch a first strike o chemically-tipped ballisne missles. He says the probability of a irst use of Syrian chemical weapons against tsrael is low, with Dmascus deterred by Israel's pirported nuclear arsenal.

The argiment to ratify the treaty is primariv financial. One of the penalties of refusal to join the CWC is that the offending country will be sarred from the supply of raw material used in the pharmaceutical and petrochemical industry. The would hurt Israel's rapidly growing high-technology industry

And when should Israel ratify the treaty?

Some officids argue that ratification should come within the next few month or even weeks so Israel can joil the verification committees of te CWC:

"If you wantto be influential. then you have to be the first," an official says. "he longer you wait the more marginal you become." Other fficials, however, have argued tat Israel should wait as long as posible until ratifying the treaty, 3y then, Israei will have determinal whether Irac will indeed ratifythe treaty and open its facilities to inspection and whether santions will be applied to those thich have not ratified, such as Sria and Egypt.

"Some think ther is an urgency in making a decism." Steinberg says. "I think weshould wait a few months and se whether Iran ratifies and we'll se the degree to which it honors it convendon." At a meeting of ne ministerial committee on Ju 16, several ministers advised tat Israel ratify the treaty hut resere the right to bolt the convenin if its Arab neighbors do not jin CWC.

The debate is conected to the US position on Israli ratification. Some officials hee maintained that the Clinton dniinistration will demonstrate uderstanding of Israel's position, to way it did regarding the 195 dehate over the extension of te NPT. Other officials said Fesideni Bill Clinton has been seh an enthusiastic supporter of he CWC that he will expect Isral to ratify the convention in the eming months.

Eliot Cohen, a cusultant to the US Defense Depriment and a professor at Jan Hopkins University's Schot of Advanced International Sidies, says Congress will proably under-stand Israel's hesincy to ratify the CWC. "Israelnight well get a sympatheoc heang, particularly if the Arab state refuse to go along with it [the CVC]." he says. Cohen agrees. ".s of now, I do not see signs of IS interest to bring this issue t the point of confrontation and pressure," he

"It is unlikely the the president would do somethin in the present political context. Lit in other circumstances - suchas the deterio-ration of US-Israelelations - this might be an issue.

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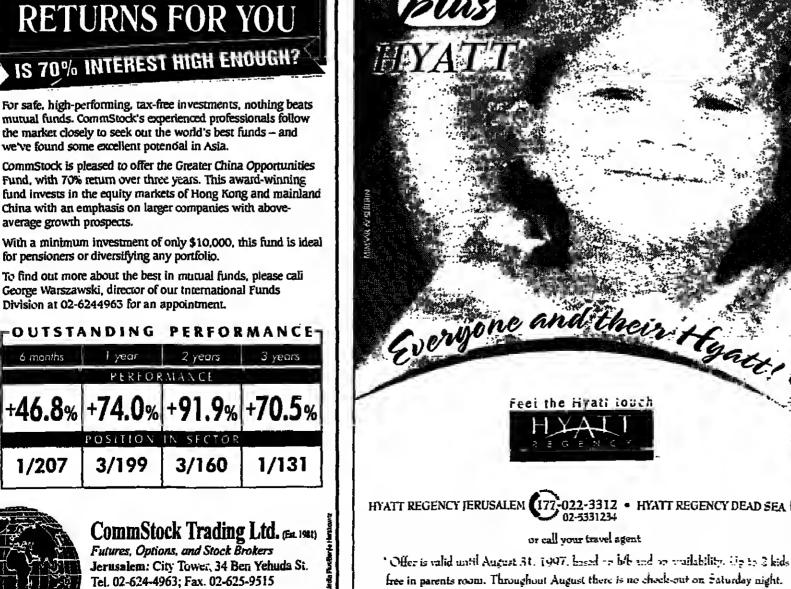
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Altonooning

t first glance it seemed to epitomize Cyrus the Great's

After all, it would not have been unlike the spirit of that worldly Persian emperor — whose domains stretched from the Aegean Sea to the Indian Ocean - to assemble an assortment of presidents, princes and diplomats for a pretentious, colorful and much-heralded inauguration ceremony of a trans-Asian railway line.

That route - launched last year between Iran and gas-rich Turkmenistan and dubbed "Pride" hy Teheran's ayatollahs — was part of a broader effort to circumvent a Western-dominated world economy through an alternative network of regional, predominantly Moslem, trading partners.

Yet one year later, as Mohammed Khatami this week assumed its presidency, Iran remained a victim of its self-inflicted isolation. In fact, to effectively undo the damage wrought on his countrymen by the 1979 revolution, Khatami would do

By MOSHE KOH

There are still many people who think

the term "the people of the book" is a

generic one designating the Jews as a

We are. But it is also true that probably

never before has such a large portion of the

Jewish people been so Jewishly illiterate, or

perhaps rather a-literate, able to read but oot

reading its own literature and other literature

of lasting value. This applies not only to

Diaspora Jewry but also to Israelis, and not

only to literacy in Hebrew but also in the ver-

Time was when even an am ha' aretz, an

otherwise unknowledgeable "peasant," could

at least read - even if he did not really under-

stand much of what he read - the voweled

prayers in the Siddur and the Book of Psalms,

and follow the Shabbat Torah portion in the

Humash (Pentateuch). His equally untutored

wife could read the Tehinot (Book of

Entreaties) and the Tzena Ur'enna (the

embellished Yiddish-Hebrew recasting of the

This is probably the type of Jew the late

Third Aliya Mapam leader, Ya'acov Hazan.

saw in his mind's eye when he made his mor-

dant comment about the younger generations

of Jewishly ignorant and deracinated Israeli

Jews. Hazan, who, like most of the ultra-sec-

ularists of his generation, had had a richly

Jewish upbringing, commented: "We [the early secular Zionist pioneers] came here to

create a generation of apikorsim [knowledge-

naculars of the various diasporas.

A VIEW FROM NOV

bookish people,

### Khatami's Silk Road golo eastward and silk westward. well to derive inspiration from the there is no contemporary evidence

indelible imprint which Cyrus left on his nation's history.

The other ayatoilahs, in promotmg various intra-Asian and pan-Moslem economic schemes, including the utterly unworkable proposition of a Moslem common market, often claimed to resurrect the legendary Silk Road.

In reality, however, behind that medieval, intercontinental trade route lurked commercial, cultural and political attitudes which were the very antitheses of those harbored by Khatami's clerical predecessors, colleagues and supervisors.

And the same was true of Cyrus, who not only restored Jerusalem and its Temple to the Jews, but also repaired the temples of his newly conquered Babylonia and left intact its native bureaucracy. Undoubtedly, the Persian emper-

or's multicultural outlook played a crocial role in his impressive, 29year reign over a vast, tri-continental empire where people, ideas and goods moved relatively freely. In fact, some two-and-a-half millennia later, that ancestor of today's

Iranians still looms tall as a pioneer of religious tolerance and political sobriety.
Similar curumstances of freedom and tolerance produced the Silk

Though commercial traffic already flowed along Asia's caravan routes in antiquity, carrying appointed a Jewish doctor, Rasnid -Din Fazialla, as chief minister.

of actual encounters between Set against this backdrop, it was Roman and Chinese people. After sao to hear Khatami's predecessors all, the terrain that lay between the habitually claiming to resurrect the two empires would have entailed an Silk Road, which they apparently arduous journey amid a myriad of view as a technical term which often hostile tribes through deserts merely implies a physical Eastas deadly as the Takla Makan ... West axis. where today China holds nuclear

tests - and along snow-capped

mountains as immense as the outer

goods would proceed from region

to region through dozens of inter-

mediaries, constantly increasing in

price along the way. Florentine

noblemen may have sat on Persian

rugs, played with Siamese ivory

chess pieces, or worn Chinese silk

gowns without ever having seen an

actual, or even a depicted, person

All that changed with Marco

Polo's ground-hreaking journeys,

which finally led a European to the

Far East and back. However, the

Italian adventurer's odyssey bene-

fited from the benevolence of Asian

rulers (the Mongols) who, like

Cyrus, encouraged commerce, pro-

tected traders, and tolerated reli-

gious diversity. So pluralistic were those patrons

of the Silk Road that in their court

at Karakoram, north of the Great

Wall, they permanently accommo-

dated Christian, Moslem and

Under such punishing conditions,

Himalayas.

from the Far East.

In reality, revolutionary Iran's economies, along with its notorious cultural intolerance, starkly contrasted with the real Silk Road's raison o etre. Indeed, nearly two decades after

its rise to power, Iran's Islamic regime is an economic basket case. Though it has in recent years backtracked from some of Khomeini's disastrous nationalization schemes, it has failed colossally to deliver on the promises of prosperity. On the contrary; after having registered annual growth rates of 8 to 14 percent and even 16% (in 1972) during the shah's era, the Iranian economy has consistently diminished under the Islamists.

Despite its leaders' frequent lip service to "diversification," Iran's livelihood remains shackled to its oil and gas deposits, a deformed structure which abandons the economy to the whims of global commodity markets. Infrastructure development, despite that railway line, has all but ground to a halt; due to a hirth rate which at 4% per annum is among the world's high-Buddhist priests, and in Persia they est, the per-capita telephone ratio

this.

Such racism!

has in fact declined to a mere four instruments per 100 people. Even so, Teheran spends 14% of its domestic product on defense and only 4% on education, which helps explain why fran remains one of the world's mosi illiterate societies.

It is these social and economic predicaments, not the Great or Small Satans, which ought to boggie Khatami's mind as he sets out to chart a new course for the Persian people. The new Iranian leader must understand that as heir to those who have shed so many innocents' hlood and spread so much bigotry across the Middle East and far beyond it, Allah himself would expect him to at least begin repair-

ing the 1979 revolution's damage.
If he is serious about reestablishing his country's affairs, Khatami would do well to ask himself not only how many Silk Road segments Teheran reconstructs but how many Iranians will actually get to travel them and thus be exposed to norms, beliefs and lifestyles which are anathema to those of ayatollahs like Ali Khomeini but indispensable for viable global commerce.

To generate prosperity at home and reconciliation abroad, Khatami must walk in the footsteps of Cyrus the Great's cosmopolitanism and tolerance.

Without such an attitudinal aboutface, Iran's quest for a resurrected Silk Road will remain little more than wishful thinking.

wish to live in peace with Arabs must accept

That rapprochement, which exists to some

degree on the personal level, will become

even more widespread on that level and come

into being on the national political level only

when Arafat and other ostensible Arab peace-

makers enter the real world and muster the

courage and the forces to mitalessly crash the

THIS PENCHANT of Arab spokesmen for

avoiding reality is supported by many jour-

For example: On July 28 Washington Post

correspondent Barton Gellman published a

feature story datelined Gaza about the

Palestine Authority canard that the Jews sold

chewing-gum to Arabs spiked with ingredi-

He called this falsehood "one among many

recent signs that after months of stagnation in

peace talks, the process of accommodation is

falling into decay." But he needed "even-

handedness," so he promptly added: "Israel,

too, devotes substantial efforts these days to

discrediting its ostensible negotiating part-

ner." How? By means of government

announcements publicizing PA-sponsored or

-condoned canards and numerous violations

There you have it: Arafatian blood libels are

equal to Israeli announcements about deliber-

emorphies of the Johns in their compa

ents that would sterilize them.

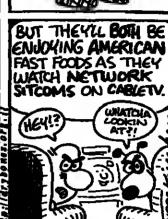
of the Oslo Accords.

### **Dry Bones**









SHABBAT SHALOM



By SHLOMO RISKIN

"For the Eternal your God is a merciful God; He will not fail gan, nar destroy you, ner ever forget the covenant with your (Deut. 4:31)

very day visitors arrive at the Western Wall. Wall. Responses vary: Imagining the fire that destroyed the Temple in 70 CE, one visitor may wail. But another claps his hands and. leaps for joy, thrilled to be standing next to such a holy site! Yet if the same person weeps one moment and dances the next,

we'd question his emotional sta-Isn't this description analogous to the readings of the haftara (Sabbath readings of the Prophets) of this week's portion of V'Et'hanan, and of last week's portion of *Devarim*, selections that seemingly present antithetically different attitudes toward the destruction? And remember that our Sages ordained that each be read with reference to the destruction of the Holy Temple, the first

Be'av and the second on the Sabbath following Tisha Be'av. Last week, Shabbat Hazon (vision) described one of the hleakest visions a prophet ever envisioned: "Your country is desolate; your cities are hurned with fire; strangers devour your land in your presence, and it is desolate" (Isaiab 8:6).

But when we get to the haftara read this week on Shabbat Nahamu (comfort) harely four days after we mourned the loss of the Temple and Jerusalem, the message is a powerful surge of faith. "O thou that brings good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain, O thou that brings good tidings to Jerusalem. Lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not arraid...." (Isaiah 40:9).

response to Tisha Be'av.

minds of the Talmudic Sages may be found in one of the last passages of the Babylonian Talmud, Makkoi 24. Rabhi Akiva and the other Sages are walking around the Temple Mount area after the destruction of our Sanctuary and see foxes emerging from the place of the Holy of Holies ... just as had been foretold.

Akiva laughs. His laughter, he explains, is an expression of faith. After all, the same prophetic vision which foresaw the destruction and the foxes also foresaw rehuilding. And the Sages respond to R. Akiva: "You have comforted us." They have added laughter to their tears.

A subtle expression of this idea is to be found in the incident of the Daughters of Zelopbehad, as commented upon by the Midrash Yalkut Shimoni and expanded

Several weeks back, in the portion of Pinhas, the Torah described five sisters whose father had died, leaving no male heirs. The assumption was that

Faith above

Parshat V'Et hanan

inheritance in the land of Israel,

on the Sahhath prior to Tisha

That one prophet could describe two such different perceptions is not impossible. The shock we experience results not so much from the messages themselves, but rather from the command to identify with each of them in

A fascinating glimpse into the The Sages weep - and Rabbi

upon in our Torah portion.

daughters were not entitled to an

and those women thought this to be grossly unfair. "Why should the name of our father be done away from amoog his family because he had no son? Give unto us a possession among the hrethren of our father."

Moses hrings their case before God, and God declares that the "daughters of Zelophehad speak right" (kain bnot Tzelafhad). "You shall surely give them a possession of an inheritance..." (Num. 27: 3-7). Our rabbinic tradition praises these women, referring to them as tzadikkot, righteous. Weren't they merely looking out for their own personal needs? asks the Yalkut Shimoni. By what yardstick are they described as

righteous? We must remember the context. In the very same portion, and almost as its introduction, the nation emerged from a plague which claimed 24,000 lives as a result of idolatry and cohabiting with Moahite women.

And in the portion before that, Korah had initiated his rebellion in the wake of the tragic and heinous sin of the spies, their negative report about Israel dooming them to extinction in the desert. The well of Miriard had dried up, the dream of entering the Promised Land had been dashed against the dry rocks of despair.

Undonbtedly the overwhelming majority of Israelites saw the hright future as having ended before it hegan; true, an opportunity for redemption had beckoned, hut it had become sun-dried and wind-tossed in a cruel desert of destruction. If the majority of Jews had not lost their faith in the Promised Land. Korah would never have attempted a rebellion.

From their perspective, the request/demand of the daughters of Zelophehad was a turning noint. Nobody forced them to

speak up.

Just as today, petitioning the
Supreme Court is the right of every individual, but not everyone is willing to invest the time and money. It must have required almost superhuman effort for five women to get past the 70 elders, to overcome the massive hureaucracy which one might imagine characterized even the desert judiciai structure, and manage to bring their case to the attention of Moses himself.

On seeing their cause to its end, they went far beyond correcting an inequity in the law. They taught the nation a lesson of faith. Despite the endless calamities. these women apparently were convinced that one day they - or their children, or their children's chiidren - would indeed divide up the land.

Where did these daughters of Zelophehad find their faith? Our weekly portion contains one possible answer. "You will perish from off the land ... It will be difficult for you - and all those (blessings) will find you ... because [God] will never forget His covenant with your fathers..." (Deut. 4:26)

Current prospects in the "desert" of exile may seem dim, hut nothing will destroy the fact that the covenant remains eternal-

Shabbat Shalom

### The Book and the chewing-gum able 'heretics' thinking Jewishly and adapting the Jewish calendric rhythm]. But we didn't even succeed in creating a generation of am-

aratzim (ignoramuses, but living and thinking Jewishly to the best of their ability]." On the other hand, of course, it is estimated

that never before have so many Jews engaged in Jewish studies - in yeshivot and the additional large variety of frameworks for Jewish

BE THAT as it may, the coincr of "the People of the Book" was not complimenting the

He was Mohammed, speaking in Ailah's name of the Jews and the Christians, the people of the Book, the Bible. But the Koran tells us that the Torah and the New Testament, true in themselves, were hut preludes to the Koran. Hence, he granted Jews and Christians a status in Islam somewhat better than that he accorded other "unbelievers" or infidels but not equal to that of Moslems.

And the Koran (Sura 29) teaches: "Be courteous when you argue with the People of the Book, except with those among them who have dealt wrongfully with you. Say: 'We believe in what has been revealed to us and to you. Our God and your God is one. To Him we are self-surrendered [muslim]" (my composite of translations by N.J. Dawood, Penguin, 1990, and J.M. Rodwell. Everyman's Library, 1909).

Ghanem M. Nuseibeh, president of the Middle East Students' Union in the United Kingdom, cites this passage (slightly truncated) in a letter chiding me for what he calls my "exclusive sectarianism" in my column of August 1, in which I discussed the canards and slanders being disseminated by some Arab spokespersons and agencies, especially those of the Palestinian Authority. In light of that passage, Nuseibeh asks how I could suggest that "the Prophet Mohammed [could] declare war against ... Jews or Christians."

I suggested no such thing. But the history

books are quite explicit about Mohammed's and many later Arab and other Moslem wars against Jews and Christians (and others).

Furthermore, the Koran itself suggests it. For example, in addition to the above admonition about courtesy, it also tells us (Sura 3): "He that chooses a religion other than Islam it will not be accepted from him and in the world to come he will be one of the lost.... Had the Propie of the Brok array and the ter for them. Some are true believers, but

most of them are evidoers." And "Believers, take neither Jews nor Christians for your friends... Do not seek the friendship of the intidels and those who were given the Book before you...." (Sura 5).

Nuseibeh also asserts that Islam "came only to complement the earlier revelations, emphasizing that it was not going to cancel out existing Abrahamic religions."

The Koran is - how shall I say it? - ambiguous on this. It says in Allah's name (Suras 2 and 5): "To Moses We gave the Book and after him We sent other apostles. We gave Jesus the son of Mary proofs of his mission.... Will you then scorn each apostle whose message does not suit your fancies, charging some with imposture and slaying others?.... God has cursed (those who reject Islam! for their unbelief. And now that a Book [the Koran] confirming their own has come to them from God, they deny it ... God's curse be upon the infidels!.... An ignominious punishment awaits the unbelievers.... [T]o you [Mohammed and his followers] We have

NUSEIBEH CHARGES that I 'make Arab-Jewish rapprochement appear impossible."

of Arab spokespersons. Nuseibeh implies that Arabs are incapable of leaving their fantasy world and settling in

the real world. He also implies that those who

ate PA violations of written agreements. The Washington Post had that Israeli chewrevealed the Book with the truth."

charges concerning the canards and slanders

In saying that without refuting any of my

ing-gum checked by chemists and other experts. Why didn't it similarly authenticate or refute that list of violations? (Thanks to CAMERA/Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in

E-mail comments to: moshe@jpost.co.il.

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# Hugo Boss AG: Soldiers of fortune

By ROBIN GIVHAN

The German ciothing factory that eventually became the international menswear powerhouse Hugo Boss AG manufactured Nazi uniforms during World War II and most likely did so using slave labor.

The revelation appeared in the latest issue of the Austrian current affairs magazine Profil. A statement from Hugo Boss AG, which is based in Metzingen, Germany, details and confirms much of the account.

"The clothing factory founded hy Mr. Hugo Boss manufactured work clothes and, we think, SS uniforms as well ... So far, we have oo archives in the company, and we're currently trying ac find what was going on." says Monika Steilen, spokeswoman for Hugo Boss AG. This is the first time we have heard of the history."

Boss founded his family-owned garment business in 1923. The company struggled for a time, fell into hankruptcy and then, during the war, made the uniforms worn

BRENNER

Continued from Page 7

Earlier in the week, Domhrovitz

predicted correctly that religious

affairs minister Eli Sulssa would

refuse to sign the Government

Gazette notification that Brenner

had been appointed to the council.

The next step, he said, would be

passage of a new law stipulating

that "only someone interested in

supplying religious services in

accordance with the Halacha as it

has been practiced for generation

after generation and who lives his

WHERE ARE THE PROTISED

by the German SS, storm troopers, Wehrmacht, and Hitler Youth. It's likely that the factory was manned by forced labor, including concentration camp prisoners and prisoners of war.

Following the war, according to Profil, Boss was ostracized as as opportunist of the Third Reich." stripped of his voting rights, and fined 80,000 marks (approx. NIS 160,000).

Over time, the family business was passed from sons to grand-

In 1953, it produced its first men's suits. By the early 1970s. it was beginning its transformation into a manufacturer of pricey and fashionable men's power suits and sportswear. In 1985, the company went public in Germany. Now, the majority of stock is held by the Italian fashion conglomerate Marzotto Group. No family members are currently involved in the company, Steilen says.

Hugo Boss AG, with a turnover of approximately \$535 million a year, regularly unveils its

life in accordance with the

Halacha may be a member of a

dismissed from his post for refus-

ing to sign the notification, con-

firmed that during the summer

recess the Knesset would pass

such legislation to "nip the Reform campaign in the bud."

a law quickly, Reform representa-

tives will soon be appointed to the

religious councils in Jerusalem. Tel

Dombrovitz said the standoff

Aviv. Harfa and Kiryat Tivon.

In fact, unless the Knesset passes

On Wednesday, Suissa, who was

religious council.

menswear collection in New York fly even faster, the Boss story had under the auspices of 7th or. Sixth. "We don't close our eyes and

say we don't want to know any-thing about it. Steilen says. What can we do? We try to get a lot of information. We cannot do anything more. The company

Being a manufacturer of Nazi uniforms, as opposed to airplane parts or rivets, packs a larger emotional punch.

may employ a historian to uncovir more details about its founder. who died in 1948, and his Nazi involvement

News of Hugo Boss AG's taint-ed past caught Seventh Avenue off guard. In a business where news spreads like wildfire and rumors says.

between the High Court and the

rabbinate over seating Reform Jews

on the religious councils is one of

the most serious in the history of

the state, precisely because it has to

That is not surprising, given one

"The question is whether Israel

can be a pluralistic society with

different approaches to advancing Judaism," she said, "We may dif-

fer on bow to go about this, but the

poioi is to offer israeli youth a

of Brenner's key aims as a member

of the Netanya Religious Council.

do with the Reform Movement.

been kept under wraps. The industry is slowly absorbing the news and wondering about the possible effect on the company's image and ousiness fortunes. How should the industry react to

such a reveiation? "It's a trauma-tizing question," says Stan Herman, president of the Council of Fashion Designers of America. "I live my life with one of the greatest conundrums in the world ... I love Richard Strauss and Richard Wagner. Strauss was in the Nazi party, and Wagner was Hitler's favorite composer. As a Jew, there's constantly a conundrum there."

The company's straightforward approach in dealing with the dislosure should serve it well. observed Frank Mankiewicz, vicechairman of Hill & Knowlton, a powerhouse zuolic relations firm adept at crisis management. "It's been 50 years. The original liability is gone. Assuming the story is true, you concede it," Mankiewicz

Today, our secular youngsters are not getting a good Jewish education. We want to change that."

For people like Shloush and

Dombrovitz, there is no such thing "choice." The Reform Movement can only deceive secular youths by offering them false gods, undermining the only true hope for secular youth, namely, entering the Orthodox fold. In their eyes, as long as there are no false movements like the Reform to deceive the ignorant ioto thinking they are miffilled Jews, there is more knowledgeable choice, atways hope.

companies that have been in operation since the war are not unusual. BMW used slave labor to repair airplane engines, says Steven Luckert, historian and a curator at the Holocausi Memorial Museum. "Certainly hundreds of German firms were involved in producing material for the war effort," he says. And as working-class Germans

Such bombshells about German

went off to fight, a labor shortage developed. Businessmen could and did turn to concentration camps for workers. Says Luckert "The laborers weren't forced oo them." Still, being a manufacturer of Nazi uniforms, as opposed to airplane parts or rivets, packs a larger emotional punch. "Even looking at some of these uniforms. because of what they were associated with, fills a lot of people with dread and terror." Luckert says. Eveo today, the uniform "symbolizes what the Nazis stood for - terror, persecution, the power of the

Aside from adding a chapter to the history books, Luckert says there is the possibility of compensation. "Beginning in the 1950s, there have been a number of former concentration camp inmates who began filing suits against companies to be reimbursed for their labor," he notes. Some of those suits resulted in monetary settlements.

#### PANEL Continued from Page 2

Earlier this year it was agreed inst the Clinton administration would ask Congress for \$34 million, enough to complete a feasibility study and begin work on a pro-

totype.

BPI is a concept whereby unmanned air vehicles fly over enemy territory and search for ballistic missile batteries. When s missile is fired, a small high-velocity rocket is sent to destroy the enemy projectile during the initial books phase of launch.

The US Air Force wants funding for a program in which a Boeing 747 spots the enemy missile launch and fires a high-powered laser to desuroy it. US officials said the program is still in the pre-feasibility stage and that it will take up to 2006 until production begins.

An Israeli defense source expressed disappointment with the recommendation. "We were hoping that we would have enough money to start some of the development," the source said. "Now, all we could do is feasibility. if the

israel Aircraft monstries and Rafaci Israel Armament Development Authority are doing

the feasibility study. The missile being designed would be lighter than the Arrow anti-missile missile but able to bone in on the heat of the enemy ballistic missile.

Despite recommending the cut in funds to the BPI, the House committee approved completion of the feasibility study.

Israeli defense sources were also concerned about what the fund cut could mean to the Homa anti-missile defense program, a layered missile defense system. In this program, the BPI would try to destroy the enemy missile in its boost phase of launch. If this fails, then the Arrow would my to intercept. the missile within 100 kilometers of israel.

### EU Continued from Page 2

After ooting "with great satisfaction" Arafat's "strong condemna-Jerusalem" and citing a similar stand on its part, the EU message contends that the closure 'will strengthen those who fight against the peace process."

It continues: "The measures severely affect and considerably increase the hardship of the Palestinian population although its responsibilities for the attack are not established."

Carrying the salutation, "Dear Mister President," signed exclosively by Poos, the message further states: "The EU has decided to ask its representatives in Tel Aviv to make a demarche upon Foreign Minister [David] Levy to make our concern known."

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# The Tax Man Cometh

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

To one it seems, is entitled to kid-glove treatment from income-tax investigators. David Broza, the latest in the list of celebrities who would rather stay out of the limelight of alleged tax evasion, was unceremoniously dragged out of bed at 6 a.m. two weeks ago when income-tax investigators hauled him in for questioning. Broza, who had volunteered to give a series of concerts for incapacitated IDF veterans as well as soldiers in the field, was able to keep one of his commitments in Herzliya under the supervision of his investigators but had to cancel out on three days in Lebanon. Some of the other celebrities who bave received unwelcome attention from the income tax authorities in recent months include soccer star Eli Ohana, whose dehnt as a television sportscaster was disrupted as a result, comedian Eli Yatzpan: and singer/composer Meir Ariel. Rumor has it that many of the rich and the famous are in line for a



Betty Klein is taking her song to Slovakia.

AMERICAN-born folksinger Betty Klein, who lives in Jerusalem but sings all over the world, will be performing this Sunday in Presov, Slovakia, at a special ceremony marking the rededication, on its 100th anniversary, of the Presov synagogue. There are only 25 Jews left in riesov. Due di whom is kiem s cousin Magos Weisz. an Auschwitz survivor who returned to her home lown after the Second Worln War and settled in the house next to the synagogue. Presov Jewish community chairman Dezider Landa visualized the rededication as an opportunity for a reunion of Presov expatriates and their desceodants and sent invitations to them in all the lands of their dispersion, most notably Israel, the US, Canada and

Australia. For Klein, it will be an especially poignant reunion. Her grandfather, a native of Presov, emigrated to the goldene medina with a Torah scroll from Slovakia and established the Ohab Zedek synagogue in Yonkers. New York. Many of the founding congregants, some of whom were relatives, were people who had been active in the Presov synagogue. Their progeny, with whom Klein grew up, continue to be active in Ohab Zedek and some,



Will Smith: enjoying big-screen stardom and big bucks

TU Be'av, the most romantic day in the Hebrew calendar, is understandably a popular date for weddings. Amongst those getting married in Tu Be'av ceremonies next week are Melissa Milgrom of Tel Aviv and Joshua Greenblatt of Germiston, South Africa. The coople met and fell in love via the World Wide Weh. Through the weo they discovered Neot Kedumim, the picturesque Biblical landscape reserve where they will be having the wedding. Melissa, originally from New Jersey, has been living in Israel for seven years and is responsible

for Joshua's aliya. Not only will they be living together, but they will also be going to work together. An entomologist, Melissa describes herself as "an insect and plant person" and her veterinarian hus-



Japanese ambassador Haruhiko Shibuya and his wife, Sachiko.

band-to-be as "an animal person." Friends from Israel and abroad who want to send greetings to be read out at the wedding can make use of the web and address their good wishes to http:/www.neotkedumim.org.il

NOW IT'S definite. Nissim Mishal is the new host of Channel 1's Popolitica. The only barrier to his succeeding Dan Margalit was his unwillingness to give up his hard-hitting Conference Call interview program. That matter has been resolved, and Mishai will now anchor both programs. The Popolitica format will remain much as it was under Margalit, the difference being that there will be a regular satirical slot and a larger turnover of guest journalists on the panel.

A FREQUENT visitor to exhibition openings at Haifa's Tikorin Museum of Japanese Art. inguarie opherioler blerubler Shinuya, who is about it wind up his term of duty, promised to stay in touch. Shibuya and his wife Sachiko, were among some 500 people who attended the opening last Saturday night of the Japanese paper dolls exhibition by Kimiyo Furukawa and wood prints by Furnio Kitaokia. The 83-year-old Furukawa said that it was the first time that her dolls had traveled outside Japan and that it was an emotional experience for her - and for them - to be in Israel.

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Walter Barrel

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Robert Redford: Hot property, in more ways than one

HE SEEMS to have been forecasting the weather for so long - first on Channel! and then on Channel 2 - that it's difficult to believe that Danny Roup is barely thirtysomething. He celebrated his 32nd birthday this week on, of all days. Tisha Be av.

THOUGH given very short nonce of the impeoding arrival of a VIP group - headed by none other than Bill and Hillary Clinton - Eddy Ben-Naim, proprictor of Washington's Tel Aviv restaurant, was ready and waiting when the presidential party arrived. The Clintons and their entourage feasted on freshly baked pitot, humous, falafel, babaganoush, tabouli, Moroccan cigars, fish in Moroccan sauce, and several other delicacies familiar to the Israeli palate. Their appetites were good and healthy - and yes, they did leave a geoerous tip.

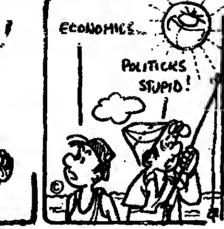
THE TRANSITION from the small screeo to the silver screen. is a boost not only for an actor's ego but also for his income. Will Smith, best known to Israeli viewers as The Fresh Prince of Bel Air, bas moved up in the world since making the highly acclaimed sci-fi comedy film Men in Black with Tommy Lee Jones and now commands not less than \$20 million for a movie. Compared to most Hollywood stars, that's still small potatoes. We should all be so unlucky.

ACTOR/producer Robert Redford has acquired 4 percent of the stock in the Los Angeles-based National Mercantile Corp. Bank through the investment fund of his production company. Since the bank specializes in loans to the entertainment industry, the natural question is whether Redford will be using personal clout to secure a loan for his



"HERE ARE THE





L'expression personnelle

### CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

### ACROSS

- 1 Merry-go-round in use, eovelopad in cheerful music (8)
- 5 Conservative stands up to emergencies (6) 8 Remote possibility this streaks through sky (6)
- 9 Run hack sick, having had a Mexican cake (8) 10 Airport huilding that is linked to computer? (8)
- II Versico of Bible Irish
- opposed (6)
  12 Steers with look to centre
- of target (5-3) 13 Wanting companionship. Nelly collapsed when pierced by love (6)
- 15 Pressed on board: (6) 18 A case of possession (8)
- 20 Force laarner to talk nonsense (6) 21 Givas too much praise,
- notice, to poor salute (8) 23 Creation, say, no one could have foreseen (3,2,3)
- 24 An arrangement crowning glory (6)
  25 Some held estates should be for the first-born (6)

26 Cavalier man (8)

DOWN 1 See me in bed- a neavenly

2 Leinon gone off Have another fruit (4,5)

8 Odd way to wander around

4 Anti-imparialist shows small hesitation seizing country (6,9) 5 Dock brief goes to excellent

student (7) 6 Second place! Strong desire to have reckless

celebration (7) 7 Some extra weight carried

in car (5,4) 12 Assignation, but not with a good looker? (5,4)

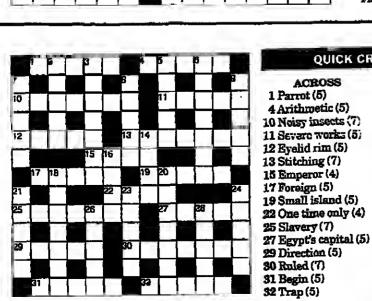
14 Man is worse than alien (9) 16 In big dictionary, glove is

17 Notes on undemanding pleasure (7:

le Anything in New York may be wicked (7) 22 Porter shows the way out

# SOLUTIONS

Yesterday's Quick Solution ACROSS: 1 Locum, 4 Motive, 9 Semovar, 10 Demur, 11 Rick, 12 Chronic, 13 Pit, 14 Star, 16 Teem, 18 Rue, 20 Epistle, 21 Afar, 24 Gamin, 25 Educate, 26 Hornel, 27 Forsy. DOWN: 1 Lustre, 2 Comic, 3 More, Brect, 13 Pretence, 15 Trimmer, 17 Length, 18 Refer, 15 Freely, 22 Flair, 23 Gaif.



## QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS 1 Parrot (5) 4 Arithmetic (5) 10 Noisy insects (7) 11 Severe works (5) 12 Eyelid rim (5) 13 Stitching (7) 15 Emperor (4) 17 Foreign (5)

19 Small island (5) 22 One time only (4)

14 Crystalline and 16 Kiss & cuddle (4) 18 Most lengthy (7) 20 Part (7) 21 Lessen (5) 23 Closes (5) 24 MCC's HQ\(5) 26 Viper (5) 28 Interior (5)

DOWN 2 Happen (5) 3 Technology opposer (?) 5 Loft (5) 6 Unfriendly (?) 7 French accent (5) 8 Greek letter (5) 9 Customary practice (5)





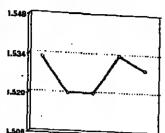
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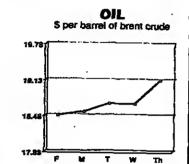
in brief





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### Company results

Tadiran profits down: Tadiran Ltd., Israel's largest electronics company, yesterday announced second-quarter net income of \$14.1m., down 73 percent from \$53m. in the corresponding quarter one year ago. Revenue for the quarter was off 4% to \$298.7m., compared

to \$311.4m. in the second quarter of 1996. Second-quarter 1996 results included a \$33.7m. gaio from initial public offering of subsidiary

Telecommunications. CEO Israel Zamir said that the results reflect the company's increase in exports, as opposed to the decline in domestic

Tadiran Telecommunications experienced a 59% decline in sales to Bezeq. However, this was offset by a 68% increase in export sales, Zamir said.

Tadiran develops and manofactures commercial and defense communications products, electronic systems, appliances, bat-Jennifer Friedlin teries and computer software.

### CommStock Trading Ltd. Futures - Options - Securities

July 8, 1997

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# AT&T invests \$15m. in Kardan venture fund

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

AT&T Investment Management Corporation financial division, has invested \$15 million in Kardan Technology Ventures, the US company's first direct investment in an Israeli enoty, Yair Safrai, a general partner at Kardan, said yesterday.

The Investment Management Corporation is responsible for managing AT&T's money, including its pension funds.

This reflects the faith that AT&T has in israeli venture capitai as well as their faith in Kardan," said Safrai. "Kardan's association with AT&T will help us in terms of

contacts that we will be able to ed in first- and later-stage financprovide to the companies we mvest in.

AT&T refused to comment. "AT&T Investment Management Corporation as a policy does not confirm individual investments or speak to individual fund man-

agers," sain Eileen Connelly, a company spokeperson. The Herzliya-based venture capital fund has garnered \$40m. in the first-round of fund raising. Danalex, a Dutch investment comparty put in \$10m. and Kardan invested 55m. The remainder came

from private investors The venture capital fund aims to raise a total of \$75m. to be investing for high-tech companies in the telecommunications, Internet software, electronics sectors.

Kardan is currently in negotiations with a number of potential European and American investors. Shlomo Kalish, founder of Jerusalem Global Ltd., a Jerusalem-based consulting and

investment firm, will step down from his post as CEO in six months in order to join Kardan's management team. "Kardan has a good track record

and this is a good opportunity to fulfill our shared visions," said Kalish, who will remain active chairman of Jerusalem Global.

"Meanwhile, the change will also allow Jerusalem Global to offer more complete services to the high-tech community."

Technology Ventures established Nitzanim, a \$20m. fund that invested in 13 companies such as Medical, Technologies, and RADCOM. Both ESC and Galileo went public on the Nasdaq stock exchange. Jerusalem Global managed the

private placements for both ESC and Galileo. Based in New York, AT&1: the US's leading long-distance tele-phone company, recorded sales of more than \$52b. in 1996.

Plywood industry still not ready for In 1993, the founders of Kardan imports

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Ministry:

The Ministry of Industry and Trade will most likely reject the plywood industry's request to postpone the 1998 deadline for reducing the tax on imports to zero, a ministry official said yesterday.

The industry has not done anything significant in order to demonstrate that they have tried to prepare themselves for the opening of the market to imports," said Yifat Turbiner, an economic advisor to Minister of Industry and Trade Natan Sharansky.

Industry representatives met on Wednesday with Sharansky in order to encourage him not to ease barriers



Sharansky met plywood indus try officials this week

on imports, saying that imports from Third World countries will threaten their business and cause an increase in unemployment.

In 1991, the Ministry of Industry and Trade decided that, due to the tough competition facing the plywood industry, it would lower import taxes gradually over a sevenyear, rather than a five-year, period.

The ministry grants extensions only if the industry can demonstrate that it has made changes in an effort to become more competitive, such as automating factories, trimming staff or boning in on a specialized

"Sometimes factories need more time to implement changes, but if they haven't adjusted, then why should we extend the deadline? Turbiner said.

An industry representative could not be reached for comment. The plywood industry's nine factories employ 2,500 workers.



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# Slavin: All ministries facing cuts in '98

Indonesian Finance Minister Marie Muhammad (left) explains yesterday to reporters why the central bank floated the Indonesian rupiah after weeks of speculative attacks in the currency market. On his right is the Governor of Bank Indonesia Soedradjad Djiwandono (AP)

End to rupia speculative attacks

All government ministries, including the Defense, Education and Labor and Social Affairs ministries, will have to cut their budgets next year, Finance Ministry Director-General Shmuel Slavin said yesterday in an interview with The Jerusalem Post.

This is the first admission that the Treasury has no intention of meeting any of the ministerial demands for increases, such as

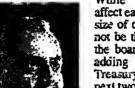
that of Defense Minister Yitzhak

Mordechai for an addition of NIS 1.5 billion to his ministry budget. Mordechai has expressed his anger at the Treasury's lack of cooperation during four cabinet meetings over the last three weeks. The defense establishment is claiming its ability to cope in a war situation could be adversely affect-



Mordechai angry

at Treasury (David Rubinger)



ed by the ongoing cuts in expendiment measures that seriously dam-expressed his satisfaction at the While the cuts will

affect each ministry, the size of the savings will not be the same across the board, said Slavin. adding that the Treasury will, in the next two weeks, present ministers with recommendations as to where the cuts can be made. Originally, the cabinet

was to vote on August 31 or September I on the specifics of the overall NIS 2.3 billion cut and the govern-

ment's order of spending priorities for 1998. However, this key meeting will in all probability be delayed until September 7, because Mordechai is scheduled to be abroad on the earlier dates. Aware of workers' objections to and fears of the plans for reforms across the economy approved by ministers on Wednesday, Slavin said the Treasury would not imple-

age employees' interests. The way ahead is

one of "humanistic capitalism," according to Slavin, who said he sees Thatcherism as being too drastic. Changing track Stavin said the Income

Tax Authority is likely to realize its predicted revenues this year, but Customs and VAT department receipts will register a considerable shortfall. The drop customs revenues is a

sign of the economic slowdown, with consumers reducing their purchases of said the governor. Long-lasting durable goods, he explained. This

anticipated shortfalt in revenues was taken into account in the additional 1997 Nis 800 million budget cut, approved on Wednesday the Knesset Finance Comminee. Bank of Israel Governor Jacob

Frenkel, meanwhile yesterday



CUES (A. Jerozolimski)

this level does not reflect enough progress in reducing inflation," growth demands significant advances on the inflation front. Welcoming the approval of the

set for this year.

1998 NIS 164.4b. bud-

get, which aims to

reduce the budget

deficit to 2.4 percent of

gross domestic product

(NIS 8.5b.), in line with

government policy set

structural changes in the economy, Frenkel reminded the government of its commitment to further liberalize the capital and financial markets and remove restrictions on foreign currency.

# Eisenbergs' daughter denies marriage was a sham

### By MARNE ROCHESTER

Allegations that the late Shoul Eisenberg's marriage was a sham were strongly denied yesterday by the late billionaire's daughter, Liz Hardy, in the latest round of the family feud over his estate.

The denial came following statements by frieods of the Eisenbergs' son Erwin this week that Shoul had been involved in a long-term affair with his female secretary. Before his death in March,

Eisenberg was seen in public with his wife Leah. but according to Erwin, they had not lived together as a couple for 40 years.

Sources close to Erwin say that this was not a secret and Shoul reportedly told Erwin from the day I married, I've been escaping from the bome."

Speaking on Galei Zahal yesterday, Hardy claimed that ber father, who was often away on business, was always accompanied by a male or female secre-

She added, however: "I don't thick that he had an affair with his secretary, because my father very much respected my

that Leah was more interested in books than in her family. She never attended school parents' meetings. When Erwin returned to Israel to serve in the iDF after attending boarding school in London, his mother never wrote or visited him, while his father kept in constant contact with him, they said.

The sources also claimed that when the Eisenbergs' daughter Edwina died after an illness, Leah was off on a ski trip. But according to Hardy, when

Erwin came home from boarding school 'they [his pareats) did take care of him. He always received food and warmth at home. He didn't lack anything." She added that until her father

died, "there were good relatiooships in the family; we spent holidays together and went to visit grandchildren, and the family life was good." Erwin's friends claimed that

from his wife and wouldn't even inform her of his whereabouts. She received \$10,000 a month in ber London bank account and more in her Israel account, they said. Shoul took care of the household bills, including the

Shoul had distanced himself

Sources close to Erwin claim house staff, and Leah's trips around the world.

After Eisenberg's death, the only will that could be found was a copy of one dated 1986. leaving 80 percent of the \$1,2 billion dollar estate to his son Erwin, The remaining 20% was divided equally among three of the four daughters and Yigai Diamant, the wiocwer of Edwina.

The other daughter, Esther Zochovitzky, had been written out of the will when her father accused her husband Yonatan and his partner of embezzling funos Shoul allegeoly intended for a take-over.

The family members are currently contesting the validity of the copy of the will in Tel Aviv Magistrates's Court

Sources close to Irwin claimed that Leah and one of the daughters hired a professional to break into Shoul's personal safes and residences, where there were reportedly hundreds of thousands of dollars as well as personal and business documents, possibly including the original

Hardy said: "My brother wants the whole cake, to control every-thing and to leave us on the

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Shekei Foreign Exchange Rates\* (14.8.97)

	CHECKS				
	TRANSF	ERS	BANK	NOTES	Rep.
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	Rates
Currency besket	3.7309	3.7911		-	3.7634
U.S. dollar	3,4968	3,5533	3.43	3.61	3.5290
Gorman mark	1.9086	1.9394	1.87	1.97	1.9222
Pound sterling	5.5396	5.6290	5.44	5,71	5,5910
French franc	0.5660	0.5752	0.55	0.59	0.5704
Japanese yen (100)	3.0052	3.0537	2.95	3,10	3.0284
Dutch florin	1.6944	1.7218	1.66	1.75	1.7086
Swiss franc	2.3130	2.3504	2.27	2.39	2.3298
Swedish krona	0.4387	0.4438	0.42	0.45	0.4397
Norwegian krone	0.4597	0.4672	0.45	0.48	0.4834
Denish krone	0.5010	0.5091	0.49	0.52	0.5047
Finnish mark	0.6372	0.6475	0.62	0.66	0.6412
Canadian dollar	2.5158	2.5582	2.47	2.60	2.5382
Australier, doller	2.65993	2.6418	2.55	2.68	2.6247
S. African rand	0.7487	0.7608	0.67	0.77	0.7553
Beigian franc (10)	0.9233	0.9382	0.90	0.96	0.9309
Austrian achilling (10)	2.7127	2.7565	2.66	2.80	2.7320
italian lira (1000)	1.9500	1.9615	1.91	201	1.9656
lomanian diner	4.9286	5,0081	4.88	5.20	4.9759
Egyptian pound ECU	1.0000	1.0800	1.00	1.08	1.0940
ECU	3.7481	3.8086			3.7751
irish punt	6.0634	5.1451	4.97	5.22	5.1012
Spanish pasets (100)		2.2928	2.21	2.33	2.2749

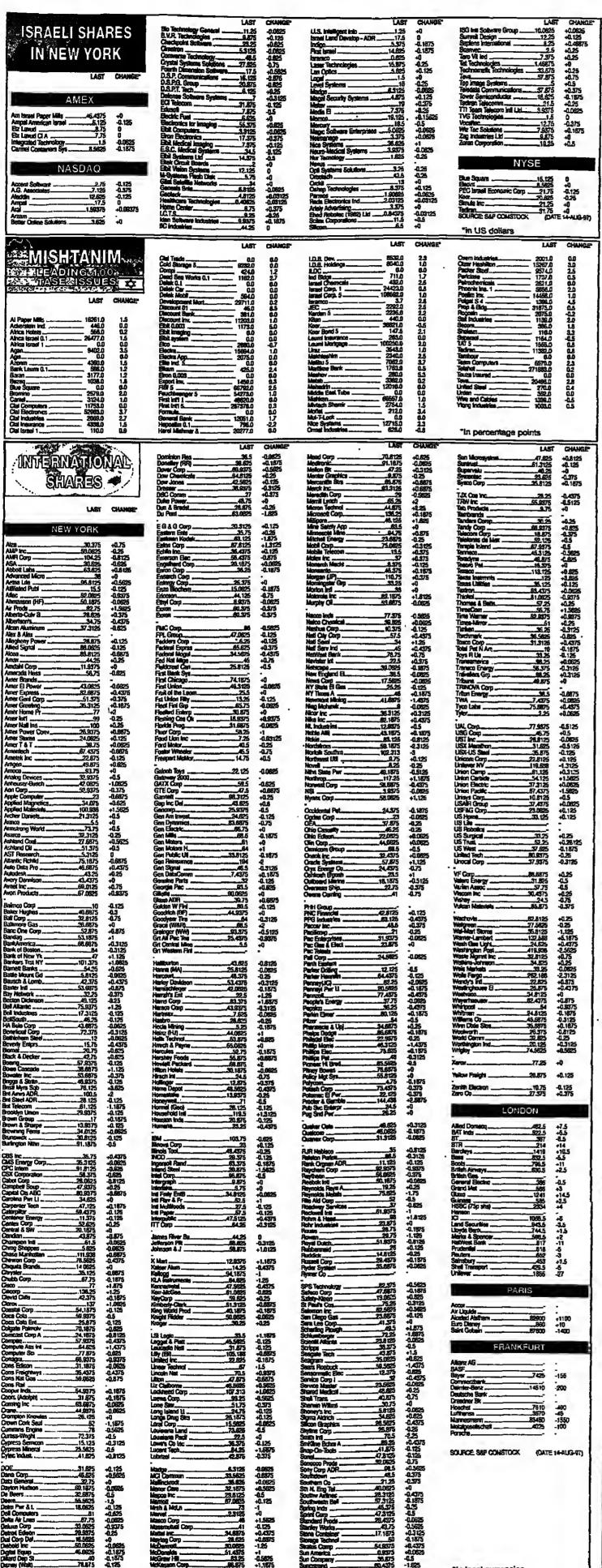
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TASE ROUNDUP

# Budget cuts push TASE up

Mishtanim 301.36 4 +1.24%

Maof 308.11 4 +1.17% Woney

Shares on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange rose yesterday for the first time in five trading days after the cabinet approved cuts to the 1998 budget on Wednesday, and after Israeli shares traded on Wall Street

went up.
Teva led gains, jumping 2.75 per-cent. Teva's American depositary receipts rose to 57 1/8 Wednesday, from 55 7/8 Tuesday. Teva rebounded from earlier losses when company executives assured investors that its recall of an antibiotic was "nothing dramatic," said Asher Sela, a portfolio manager at Etgar Ltd., a Tel Aviv investment firm.

Key Representative	Rates
US DollarNIS 3.529	- 0.14%
Sterling NIS 5.591	+ 0.43%
Mark NiS 1.922	+ 0.37%

MARKET INDEXES

	OSSRATE	
ound: spot	Less 1,501	Change +0.0075
CALL CALL	1.587	40.00S
maric appl		-0.0056
CME		-0.0018
place (CME)	1.5172	-0.0062
phone (CME)	0.6612	-0.0031
r sport	117.57	+2.35
plane (CME)	0.00851	-0.000177
nDir; spot	1.3903	+0.0011
aDir. spot		-0.0039
chare (CME)	0.7417	-0.0027
and stock		+0.0144
rat spot		+2
500t	2.0731	+0.0045
SNit spot		+0.1091
nd sport		+0.023
Lt spot	LD683	-0.0019
nds Septeme		40.25
and P September	R28	+22

Cos (Sept (CEC) 18455 -14 See (Sept (CEC) 18455 -14 See (Sept (CEC) 18455 -145	US COMM	ODITIE	S
rest (1001)	ande juice (Nov1(CEC)	\$55.25 \$11.75 76.1	-14 +1,45 -3,75 -5

LONDON CO	DMMOD	TIES
com (Sep) (LCE) Noc (Sep) (LCE) ent crude oil (Oct)(PE)_	1251 	-10 +5 -8

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

LONDON METAL FIXES

SOURCE SAP CONSTOCK (DATE 14-AUG-97) DATA COMMUNICATIONS VIA

ABACONFUTER SYSTEMS LINITED Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd. Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds

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Tel Aviv shares data

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The Maof Index of 25 issues rose 1.17%, to 308.11 Mishtanim Index of 100 issues rose 1.24%, to 301.36.

Prices were also boosted by the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange's switch yesterday to continuous trading. which Sela said was like "going from a Spitfire to an F-16."

Gaining shares following rises on Wall Street included Elbit, which rose 5%, after Elbit's shares traded in New York rose 1/4, to 3 1/4 on Wednesday. Software house Formula rose 5.06% after Crystal Systems, in which Formula holds a stake, rose to 28 3/8 from 27 1/8 on

Declining shares included Bank Hapoalim, which sank 2.25% and Koor, which fell 0.5%. Investors will be watching today's announcement of July's consumer price index for indications of whether the Bank of Israel will raise interest rates, added Sela.

Analysts are expecting an increase of about I percent for the month, which is seen prompting the central bank to raise interest rates by 0.3 percentage point to 0.5 percentage

If the CPI rises by 0.8 percent or below, said Sela, the central bank is unlikely to increase rates.

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

### Mixed trading in Eurostocks

LONDON — European stock markets were mixed to lower by mid-afternoon yesterday, refusing to follow an openiog rally on Wall Street, despite widespread relief that US consumer prices for July showed no inflationary threat to the roaring bull market.

The dollar rallied after piercing a big chart resistance point at 116.80 yen, which helped it to retrace losses against the mark too, as one piece of US economic data after another showed the economy could plough ahead leaving barely a ripple in consumer prices.

Wall Street quickly jumped to a 60 point gain on the Dow Jones Industrial Average, but within half an hour of the price data was trading just 34 points up at 7964.

The pound remained stubbornly above 2.90 marks which restrained prices in British shares, where exporters are troubled by the strong currency. The strong pound makes Bridsh exports less competitive abroad and allows foreign rivals to price keenly in the UK market.

London shares lost early gains, and the FTSE-100 index of leading shares was showing a loss on the day of around five points.

The Paris bourse was mixed after a 2.5 % drop on Wednesday, and dealers expected any upside to be limited by the end of the day as investors square their books and pack up for the mid-August long weekend.

German shares in late electronic trade were little changed after closing lower in the main bourse session. Prices have veered in a 90-point band on the IBIS-DAX index, but appeared to be firmly supported above 4,200 a level many dealers see as psychologically crucial.

### WALL STREET REPORT

### Blue-chips end slightly higher

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Bluechip stocks closed slightly higher yesterday as the market agaio worked through a consolidation of its steep, summer-long rally.

Stocks mostly ignored the strength in bonds on new economic data showing inflation was still in

Based on early and unofficial data, the Dow Jones industrial average was up 13.71 points at 7,942.03. The blue-chip index has soured nearly 880 points so far this summer on the back of moderate economic growth and subdued inflation.

In the broader market, advancing issues led declines by a thin margin on volume of 526 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

In the bond market, the benchmark 30-year Treasury bond was up nearly a full point, which lowered its yield to 6.56 percent, from

Wednesday's close of 6.63%. The long-bond interest rate is still

a quarter point higher than the 6.33% registered on July 30. when the Dow stood at a then record 8.254.89.

The good news on inflation came from the Consumer Price Index, which edged up just 0.2% in July after rising 0.1 percent in June. The so-called "core" rate of inflation, which leaves out the often-erratic food and energy measures, also rose

0.2%. The CPI rise, which matched Wall Street expectations, reassured investors that little inflationary pressure was likely to be seen soon.

 $A_{i}(x) = \sum_{i} A_{i}(x)$ 

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Columbia/HCA Healthcare Corp. fell 1 7/16 to 31 5/16 on growing Wall Street concern that the federal probe of its Medicare billings could implicate higher-ups in the organi-

### ALBRIGHT Continued from Page 1

Arafat, who had hoped that Ross's visit would end the closure, said the measures announced by the government yesterday were not enough and accused Netanyahu of encourag-

ing terror.
"Instead of fighting terror, he is fighting the Palestinian people and the national authority. Who benefits from this? Terror does," Arafat said. Arafat also insisted that the PA

is not responsible for the July 30 attack because so many reports say the bombers came from abroad. Israeli security officials do not

believe this, largely because they estimate that abroad, the families of the bombers would have felt no incentive to keep their names secret. Even if it is true, the bombers presumably were aided by a terrorist infrastructure here.

Why are you holding me and my people responsible for this?" Arafat asked. "This is reveoge for something we are not responsible

On the other hand, if they want me to be in charge of security io west Jerusalem, then I am ready," Arafat joked.

Arafat yesterday told a delegation of visiting Hadash Party officials io Ramallah that Israel was refusing to allow in vegetables, and Supplies Minister Abu Ali Shaheeo accused Israel of making

hunger a tool of policy. Shlomo Dror, spokesman for the government coordinator of activities in the territories, said it is "oot true" vegetables are barred, but it is true that building materials are barred "for security reasons." This is because the heavy, more solid materials, such as steel, are considered good hiding places for explosives.

Mohammed Baraka, secretarygeneral of Hadash, said that "this policy of oppression is good neither for the Palestinians nor for Israelis."

One of the government's key security demands is that Arafat order the arrests of the 250 Islamic radicals on a list supplied by Israel. Arafat has refused to do this, saying it would violste

human rights. Israel itself has so far arrested fewer than 250 suspects, at the rate of about 10 day after the first week. It arrested seven on

Wednesday night, the IDF said. On Wednesday night, Shaheen asked Israel not to bring in 29 trucks of flour, because the PA had a two-mooth surplus of free flour donated this week by Egypt,

Dror said. Egypt donated 150 tons of flour, 150 tons of sugar and 100 tons of псе.

Palestinian goods began leaving the Kami checkpoint yesterday in Gaza, to cross at a rate of 169 trucks a day, compared with 700-800 trucks when there are no restrictions.

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**JERUSALEM** 

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TEL AVIV MUSEUM OF ART, Yone lotar: Selected Paintings 1958-1997. Second-hand, Original vs. Reproduction: Didactic exhibition for children and youth. Pesach Slebosky: Never Oid Anything Hard: Paintings since 1990. Yehuda Pobuchrai: The Plain Sense: A selection of paintings 1994-1997. Micha Kirshner: The Local Spirit, Sculptures. El Jacobi: The World of Wonders 3, Paintings 1996-1997. Dornt Yecoby: New series. "All the world's a stage." The Coffection in Context. Colections. HELEN RUBINSTEIN PAVILION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART. Shlomo Ben-Devild end Arnon Ben-David, Tha Inverted Campaign. Hours: 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Tue., 10a.m.-10 p.m. Fri., 10 a.m.-9.m., Sai., 10 a.m.-3:p.m. Meyerhott Art Education Center, Tel. 6919155-8.

### GENERAL ASSISTANCE

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Friday, August 15 Jerusalem: Amona, 9 Leib Yaffe, 873-1901; Shualat, Shualat Road, 581-0108; Dar Aldawa, Herod's Gate, 628-2058. Tel Aviv: Benny, 174 Dizengoti, 522-2386; Pe'er Market Jatia, 61 Yehuda Hayamit, 682-2973. Ra'anana-Ktar Save: Hadarim, Yosefial, Ktar Sava, 766-2520.

Netanya: Neo1 Shaked, Ezorim Commercial Center, 835-2484. Halta: Hegiborim, 28 Hagiborim, 823-

Krayot area: Kupat Holum Clalit Zevulun. 192 Derech Akko, Kiryat Bialik, 878-7618. Herzilya: Clal Pharm, Belt Merkaziri, 6 Maskit (cnr. Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 955-8472, 955-8407. Open 9 a.m. per Nazareth: Cial Pharm, Lev Ha'ir

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Jerusalem: (dayl Kupal Holim Clair, Straus A, 3 Avigdon, 670-6660; (evening) Center Pharm, Har Hahotzvim, 586-9744; (day and evening) Balsem, Salah e-Din, 627-2315; Shuafat, Shuetet Road, 581-0108; Dar Aklawa, Herod's Gale, 628-2058. Tel Aviv: Ahva, 169 Dizengolt, 522-4717; Superpharm Gimel, 1 Ahimeir, Ramat Aviv Girnel, 641-7171. Till midnight: Superpharm Ramat Aviv, 40 Einstein, Ramat Aviv. 641-3730; Superpharm London Ministore, 4 Shaul

Hamelech, 696-0115. Ra'anana-Kfar Save: (day) Narkis, 6 Hativat Golani, Kfar Sava, 761-8248; (evening) Eden, 95 Derech Ramatayim, Hod Hasharon, 746-4002. Netanya: Hadassa, 24 Herzi, 882-2243. Haita: Hanassi, 33 Hanassi, 833-3312. Krayot area: Super Pharm, Hakiryon, 44 Hapaimeth, Kiryat Blatik, 677-9320. Herzitya: Clai Pharm, Beit Merkazim, 6

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in brief

### Yeshiva students may be charged with murder

Jerusalem prosecutors are weighing the possibility of charging four yeshiva students with murder for the slaying Tuesday of a 74-year-old Arab gas station attendant, Mahmud Abu-Sara. Abu-Sara was dragged for several hundred meters as he hung onto the boys' vehicle to try to stop them when they failed to pay for gas at a Sheikh Jarrah statioo. Judge Yehezkel Barkley of magistrate's court heard a police request last night to extend the suspects' detention by 10 days. Police based their petition on a law regarding premeditated crimes.

### Bad drivers to take refresher course

Drivers convicted of traffic violations that led to accidents will soon be required to take a refresher course, part of e new initiative by Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy to reduce road acci-

Levy said in in the first stage of the plan, about 1,000 drivers involved in accidents in the last three years (1994-96) and who accumulated seven other traffic violations - at least one of them leading to a suspension of their license - will be summoned to take the course.

### Firefighters threaten to increase sanctions

Firefighters said they would step up their sanctions begun Wednesday if Beit Shemesh-area fire and rescue workers are not paid their July salaries by Sunday.

The workers are currently working on an emergency footing, engaging only in putting out fires. They are not cooducting investigations or training or implementing fire prevention programs for local authorioes. Jerusalem Post Staff

### Elderly woman found dead

The bound body of an 85-year-old woman was found yesterday in ber borne at 11 Ichilov Street in Petach Tikvah. Police suspect that Tovah Schtetler was mudered and were investigating the circumstances. Schtetler lived alone. Her body was discovered after friends called firefighters to break open her locked door. It wasn't yet known whether money was stolen from the

### State submits summary in Hanit Kikos case

The State Attorney's Office submitted a written summary to the Supreme Court in the case of Suleiman Abeid, who was found innocent several weeks ago of the 1993 murder of Hanit Kikos, but guilty of raping her.

Court President Aharon Barak agreed to have the case heard again before an expanded panel of nine justices.

The prosecution believes there is enough evidence to convict Abeid of both crimes, and that it is not possible to separate them. It also believes Abeid's confessions to both crimes should be given greater weight than two justices on the earlier panel gave them.

The new panel will review summaries from both sides before deciding whether to hold another hearing.

### Weizman hosts Netanyahu in Caesarea

President Ezer Weizman and his wife Reuma yesterday hosted Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and his family at his Caesarea home, Arye Shumer, director of the President's Residence, said that no significant political discussions took place. Netanyahu is vacationing with his family near Caesarea. Batsheva Tsur

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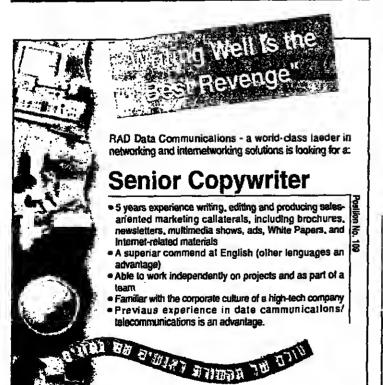
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(Special consideration will be given to those who can indentify the origins of the quote that is paraphrased at the top of this ed.)



# Report: Levy could be next president

#### By MICHAL YUDELMAN

The Gesher and Tsomet parties may merge with the Likud and run as one ticket in the next national elections, Channel I reported last night.

The deal reportedly calls for baving Foreign Minister David Levy appointed as president after President Ezer Weizman would complete a second

Both Levy, who heads Gesher, and Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan, the head of Tsomet, denied any knowledge of such negotiations. "People talk, but nobody is authorized to speak in my name and I know nothing of such talks," Levy said.

Channel I said that the talks have been conduct-

ed secretly between Avigdor Lieberman, directorgeneral of the prime minister's office, and David Appel, a Likud official close to Levy. Other changes they are said to be discussing were to add 1,000 Central Cammittee members to the Likud, 500 apiece from Gesher and Tsomet.

In addition, Likud would do away with the primary system it introduced in the late 1980's to choose Knesset candidates, and revert to having the Central Committee select nominees. Gesher and Tsomet would be assured of 10 slots epiece in the first 35 places on the list.

Some Gesher leaders were surprised by the report. MKs David Magen and Yehuda Lankri insisted that a merger was not on the agenda.

# Barak: Reorganizing party will be painful

#### By MICHAL YUDELMAN

Labor Party leader Ehud Barak said yesterday that reorganizing the party would require painful cutbacks, including the dismissal of many workers

Speaking to 200 Labor youth, Barak said the party must operate within two sections only: organization leading up to election day, and information and media.

He said due to the direct election law, the party must be reedy for a situation in which elections are declared within 60 days, and must therefore gear itself to be in

a constant election campaign. In order to win in the next elections, Barak said, Labor must "reach the hearts" of more people in the political center, new immigrants, and supporters of

In another meeting with workers' representatives, Barak warned egainst the increase in unemployment deriving from the stalemate in the peace process, its security implications and Israel's growing international

By the end of this year, Barak Barak said.

said, there will be more than 200,000 unemployed people, compared to half that number last

He said the government collects unemployment money by taxing workers, not the wealthy. The Third Wey, Gesher, and

"[Prime Minister] Netanyahu, in his socially insensitive policy cares only for a small circle of supporters and deprives large sectors of the public of their selfdignity. We will lead a way which will create teos of thousands of more work places and a reduction in unemployment,"

# Web 'treasure hunt' teaches about Jerusalem

### By JUDY SIEGEL

A "treasure hunt" aimed at teaching the Internet-using public some hasic facts about Jerusalem - and offering a \$10,000 prize whose winner will be drawn in December - has been launched by the International Forum for a United the Jerusalem (IFUJ).

"Our aim is both educative -to present a wealth of data, partly unknown, about Jerusalem's history - and corrective - to counteract the anti-Zionist campaign currently running wild on the Internet," said IFUJ founder and executive committee chairman Eliyahu Tal.

"It's amazing how much ignorance about Jerusalem there is among the public at large around the world, among some Jews and even some Israelis. How many Jews, for example, can tell you why the bridegroom breaks a glass at bis wedding [To remember the destruction of Jerusalem]?

"How many know that the Western Wall is oot a relic of the Second Temple proper but a part of the massive retaining wall of the Temple Mount platform? Who knows that Al-Aksa is Arabic for 'the farthest' and that the Koran never mentions Jerusalem by name?"

The site was leunched on August 1 at http://www.jerusalem-treasure.org.il. It will remain on line until the last day of Hanukka, when Jerusalem

Mayor Ehud Olmert will draw the \$10,000 winner from among

those who register on the site. Tal says he will "feel it was a failure unless we get at least 100,000 to register, but we expect many more."

To register, one must merely go through a 20 minute on-line treasure hunt, which includes attractive illustrations and a minimum of text, and select six correct sites to match written descriptions. Getting the right answers is easy, as the program won't proceed until you click the correct one. Tal noted that registering more than once will not increase one's chances of getting the prize, as a special program weeds out duplicates.

The effort has received the blessings of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, Olmert, former Mayor Teddy and Kollek, who sent in his own NIS 5,000 check as a contribution to the project.

The Jerusalem Post is one of its sponsors and will supply a link to its popular Internet Edition. A Hebrew edition, which will replace some of the Christian references with Jewish ones, will be ready in a month.

"We don't want to preach to the converted," concluded Tal. "We want to reach an audience beyond the Jewish periphery, especially young people. It will be a counterweight to various Islamic and Palestinian sites that pervert facts about Jerusalem."

## At summer's end, children need to buy schoolbooks

### By BEVERLEEE BLACK

It's that time of the year wben I get around to Israel's perennial problem. When I came on aliya a lifetime ago, I was amazed to see 10-year-olds sitting on sidewalks in the ceoter of Jerusalem selling the previous year's schoolbooks.

didn't know parents had to pay for the books and that the children were selling their old ones so as to have money to huy the oew ones. So, as the beginning of the

school year approaches, I again have dozens of appeals on my desk. Last week, I was able to belp 12 families who don't have the money to buy books for all their children. In one case the family needed more than NIS 3,000 (\$850) to provide their seven children with books and school supplies.

One would have thought that the education authorities, io all their wisdom, would plan it so older children could pass on their used books to their younger siblings. Instead, however, they seem to have the habit of discontinuing the previous curriculum every couple of years, thus making the books "out of date."

So I come back to my perennial appeal - money for school books. What better mitzva. Mail your checks to: The

Jerusalem Post Funds, P.O. Box 81, Jerusalem 91000. Donors in the United States wishing to receive tax benefits can send their donations to: Friends of The Jerusalem Post

Funds, 211 E. 43rd Street, New York, NY 10017. Please designate in your letter to which fund you wish to donate. FORSAKE ME NOT

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> Meir Ronnen The Jerusalem Post

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and ten yote

# Daly takes early PGA lead

Daly, who walked off the course in the last major championship he played, shot a recordtying four-under-par 66 yesterday to take the early lead in the PGA Championship - the tournament that launched his mercurial career in

Daly, a recovering alcoholic who quit after 27 holes in the US Open in June because he still had the shakes due to a drinking binge in March, posted an impressive seven birdies on Winged Foot Golf Club's vaunted West Course while making only two bogeys.

I hit a lot of fairways and made some putts," Daly said after matching the competitive course record that Fuzzy Zoeller set in winning the 1984 US Open at Winged Foot.

The 31-year-old Daly, who won the 1995 British Open in a playoff, said Wednesday's sporadic rains had softened the greens and made them more receptive to approach shots

on Winged Foot's long dogleg par-4s.

However, the lead taken by the newly slimmed-down Daly was not assured as there were soll more than 120 players yet to finish when he posted his 66.

His closest pursuer was the reigning British Open champion Justin Leonard, who was three-under par after 16 holes.

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Leonard, 25, playing with the winners of the year's two other majors - Masters champion Tiger Woods and US Open winner Emie Els made three hirdies in a row starting at the 11th as he outplayed his "twenty-something" play-

Woods, 21, got off to a fast start with three consecutive hirdies on the front nine but he gave those strokes back in two holes coming

two triple bogeys in the British Open at Troon, double bogeyed the par-5 12th and bogeyed the

South African Els, who won his second US Open at Congressional Country Club in June, also struggled after a good start. He was three under after seven holes but then went five over



Ernie Els

in the next seven.

Paul Azinger and Boh Tway - both former PGA Championship winners - each shot two-under 68 to stand two behind Daly among the early finishers.

While the slightly-soft conditions made Winged Foot's notoriously hard greens a little more receptive for the early starters, not everyone found the famous course easy.

Troon last month, both struggled. Faldo shot 75 and Clarke 74.

Jesper Parnevik of Sweden, runner-up at Troon for the second time at a Briosh Open,

Phil Mickelson, another under-30 star who played with Faldo and Clarke, shot 69, as did fellow-American Doug Martin, who played in the second group of the day. Spain's 25-year-old Ignacio Garrido, expect-

ed to be on Europe's Ryder Cup team in September, matched par 70 in debut in the US PGA Championship, the fourth and final major of the year. He was joined at 70 by American Paul Goydos.

US-PGA Running Scores Phil Mickelson 34-35-69; Len Mattiace 34-38-72; Kevin Sutherland 34-39-73; Darren Clarke 38-36-74; Nick Faldo 39-36-75; Mike Brisky 37-38—75; Hal Sumon 39-39—78; John Mahaffey 38-40—78; Wayne Grady 41-38—79; John Daly 35-31—66; Bob Tway 33-35-68; Paul Azinger 35-33-68; Paul Goydos 33-37-70; Andrew Magee 35-36-71; Craig Stadler 36-36-72; Per-Ulrik Johansson 32-41-73; Duffy Waldorf 35-39-74; Ben Crenshaw 37-40-77; Payne Stewart 33-37—70; Fred Couples 34-37—71; Steve Elkington 37-35—72; Frank Nobilo 36-36—72; Nick Price 36-36—72; Dudley Hart 39-35—74; Clarence Rose 37-37—74; Ed Fiori 37-39—76; Jesper Pamevik 37-39—76; Justin Leonard 34-34—68; Ernie Els 34-36—70; Tiger Woods 32-38-70; Tom Watson 34-37-71; Tim Herron 37-35-72; Brad Faxon 34-39-73; Lee Westwood 37-37-74; Stnart Appleby 37-38-75; Ice Ozaki 34-41-75.



Tiger Woods after his first-round 70 (32-38) at the PGA Championship yesterday.

# Donald fires Warwickshire into NatWest final

BIRMINGHAM (Reuters) - South African fast bowler Allan Donald collected five wickets to hustle Warwickshire to a 105-run win over Sussex in the NatWest Trophy semifinal at Edgbaston yes-

With the match carried over from Wednesday, Sussex resumed on 43 for two from 11 overs chasing a target of 343 from a further

Donald quickly removed former England batsman Bill Athey as Sussex struggled to come to terms with the required run rate.

Mark Newell hit the top score of 79 and Sussex captain Peter

Moores made 45.s But Donald had the last word to finish with five for 37 as Sussex were dismissed for 237 in 53.1 overs.

David Hemp, who made 111 not out for Warwickshire, was the man of the match.

### Beersheba return with goalless draw

By ORI LEWIS

Hapoel Beersheba last night became the third Israeli side to register a 0-0 score in their European cup fixture when they came away with the promising result from Vilnius last right.

The Beershebans, playing in front of 2,000 spectators in the Cup Winners' Cup first round, against Zalgiris Vilnins in the Lithuanian capital, will be very happy with the result, which follows Hapoel Petah Tikva's goalless draw away against Veile of Denmark on Tuesday and Betar Jerusalem's similar result against Sporting Lisbon at home the following day.

The return leg will be played in Beersheba on August 27. Israel-Bulgaria

National team coach Shlomo Scharf will today name his final 18-man squad to travel to Sofia on Sunday for Israel's do-or-die World Cup qualifier against Bulgaria.

Itzik Zohar, who is now ready to formalize his contract with Crystal Palace, has been left out of the squad. Scharf claims this is because Zohar has not had any match play since the start of the season.

Betar defender Yossi Abuksis, wbo had an outstanding match against Sporting Lisbon on Wednesday, has been drafted as a replacement for Zohar.

### Emil Mosbacher at 75

smallest margin in the history of the event.

CREENWICH Conn. (AP)—Fintil Bus in 1968, Mosbacher returned with a new yacht. Mosbacher, the winning skupper in two America's Cup yachting issues; died of being caseer on second time.

Wednesday.

The 75-year-old Mosbacher, who was Jewish, mood in the Richard Nixon administration from guided. Weatherly's successful defense of the 1969 to 1972 and theo was appointed chainman of America's Cup in 1962. He won the fourth received in New York State Racing and Wagering Board, a that best-of-7 series by a scant 26 seconds the prist is held for six months, until an illness prompts. ed his retirement.



STYMIED - Manchester United's Jordi Cruyff fails to score against Southampton 'keeper Paul

Jones. United won 1-0.

# Match abandoned as Derby's lights go out; Utd, Leeds win

new Pride Park stadium was cut short by an embarrassing floodlight failure Wednesday to leave the

Premier League club far from proud. The lights weot out in the second half with County leading 2-1. Unfortunately, after referee Uriah Rennic, the first black official to take charge of a Premier League game, decided to abandon the game and the fans were leaving, the lights came on again.

Liverpool, rated as main contender for Manchester United's title, wished the Anfield lights had failed after it lost 2-1 at home to Leicester despite a first goal for the club by former Inter Milan midfielder

Matthew Elliott and new signing Graham Fenton netted for the Foxes at Anfield and Liverpool has

LONDON (AP) - Derby County's first game at its only one point from two games while Leicester has a

. Substitute David Beckham gave Manchester United a 1-0 victory over Southampton at Old Trafford and Alex Fersguson's team, aiming for a fifth title in six seasons, has started with two shutout

Aston Villa, an outside bet for the title, has begun with two losses including a 4-0 thumping at home by Blackburn, with Chris Sutton scoring the first three before half time.

Leeds scored a 3-1 victory at neighbor Sheffield Wednesday with two goals from Rod Wallace while West Ham downed cross-London rival Tottenham 2despite Les Ferdinand's first goal for the Spurs

### since he transferred from Newcastle. Van Basten voted best player of early '90s

MILAN (AP) - Marco Van the survey taken by Corriere dello Basten, whose soccer career was Sport and published yesterday. ended by a chronic ankle injury, was voted the world's best player of the 1990s in a survey of Italian

coaches and former stars. Van Basten, a Dutch international who played for seven years with The Dutch forward, a three-time

European player of the year who led the Netherlands to the continental otle in 1988, retired in 1993 after operations on his right ankle. His professional career began in Antonio Careca. AC Milan, received 295 votes in 1982 with Ajax Amsterdam.

Argentine striker Gabriel Batistuta finished second in the balloting with 205 votes.

Liberian forward George Weah, who replaced Van Basten at AC Milan, was third with 198 votes. ahead of retired Brazilian star

### Irabu wins, Martinez hits 39th Hatteberg's :wo-run single

NEW YORK (AP) - Hideki Irabu, demoted to the minors last month after four starts, picked up his third win and Tino Martinez hit his major league-leading 39th bomer, leading the New York Yankees over the Kansas City Royals 9-3 Wednesday.

Irabu (3-2) allowed three runs and six hits in 5% innings, struck out five and walked two. The right-hander struck out four of his first five batters and took a shutout into the fifth, when he appeared to

Tigers 13, Indians 3 Indians 9, Tigers 1

Orel Hershiser (10-5) came off the disabled list and rescued host Cleveland, allowing one run and five hits in 5% innings to belp the Indians gain a split.

Bobby Higginson bit two homers, and Damion Easley and Phil Nevin added one each as Detroit won the opener. Willie Blair (12-5) woo the

opener, allowing three runs and nine hits in eight innings. John Smiley (1-2) gave up seven runs and six hits in 3% innings. Glenn Dishman (1-1) lost the second game, giving up four runs and six hits in 3% innings.

Rangers 7, Red Sox 6 Juan Gonzalez went 3-for-4 with two borners and five RBIs as Texas won on the road.

Texas had two six-run leads before the Red Snx cut it to 7-6 in the seventh on an RBI groundout by Troy O'Leary and Scntt

ing with baseball's doctors.

American

East Division

W L Pct. GB

Baltimore 73 42 .635 —

New York 70 48 .593 4½

Toronto 58 60 .492 18½

Boston 58 63 .479 18

Detroit 56 63 .471 19

Detroit 55 63 .471 19
Central Division
Cleveland 60 56 .517 —
Chicago 58 59 .496 24
Milmankee 57 60 .487 34
Minnesota 51 68 .429 103
Kansas City 49 67 .422 11
West Division

Seattle Anaheim

559

5%

.55 .483 .397

American League

Boston starter Steve Avery (6-3) lasted just two innings, his shortest outing of the season. Avery gave up six runs on four hits and

Tanyon Sturtze (1-0) allowed three runs and seven hits in five innings. John Wetteland, the sixth Rangers' pitcher, worked the ninth for his 26th save.

Athletics 4, Orioles ' Andrew Lorraine outpitched Mike Mussina for his first win in the major leagues and visiting

Oakland hit three homers. Lorraine teamed with five relievers on an eight-hitter. He gave up two runs - one earned - in five innings, walking one and striking out eight. Lorraine, a 25year-old left-hander, was brought up from Class AAA Edmonion.

Mark Bellhorn, Jason McDonald and Brent Mayne all homered off Mussina (13.5), who had a personal three-game wininnings - his shortest outing since Opening Day - Mussina allowed four runs and seven hits.

Blue Jays 3, Twins 2 Jose Cruz Jr. hit a run-scoring single with one out in the bottom of the ninth inning as Minnesota fell to its fifth consecutive loss.

Shannon Stewart singled with one out off Mike Trombley (1-2)

and stole second. Juan Samuel walked, and Cruz greeted Eddie Guardado with a liner off the base of the wall in left, helping the Blue

National League

Atlanta 75 47 .815 Florida 69 50 .580 4%
New York 66 53 .555 7%
Montreal 60 58 .508 13
Philadelphia 42 75 .359 30%

Central Division Houston 65 58 .537

W L Pct GB

Henderson swapped to Angels

SAN DIEGO (AP) - Rickey Henderson, still a sparkplug at 38, was traded Wednesday from the San Diego Padres to the Anaheim Angels for

The deal comes a day after Angels leadoff hitter Tony Phillips was charged with felony possession of cocaine and benched pending a meet-

San Diego received minor league pitchers Ryan Hancock, a right-hander, and Stevenson Agosto, a left-hander; and a player to be named.

Henderson is baseball's career stolen base leader with 1,215, including 29 this year. He returns to the AL, where he spent 16% seasons.

Wednesday's NL results: Philadelphia 12, Colorado 8; Chicago 6, San

Wednesday's AL results: NY 9, Kansas City 3; Detroit 13, Cleveland 3 (14);

East Division

St. Louis Cincinnati

Chicago WestDivision

San Francisco 67 54 Los Angeles 65 55 San Diego 57 63 Colorado 57 64

Francisco 5; Pittsburgh 2, Atlanta 1; Florida S, Houston 6; NY 5, St. Louis 4

Cleveland 9, Detroit 1 (2nd); Texas 7, Boston 6; Toronto 3, Minnesota 2;

(10); Cincinnati 2, San Diego 0: Los Angeles 3, Monureal 1.

Chicago 5, Anaheim 2; Oakland 4, Baltimore 2.

Jave to their 12th win in 15 home NATIONAL LEAGUE

Mets 5, Cardinals 4 Pinch-hitter Butch Huskey singled home the go-ahead run in the

top of the 10th inning as New York overcame two homers by Mark McGwire. Edgardo Alfonzo walked against

Tony Fossas (1-5) leading off the 10th and John Olerud singled him to second. Todd Hundley's grounder advanced the runners and Huskey grounded a single to left off Curtis King.

McGwire raised his home-run

total to 38 with the 40th multihomer game. He hit a 455-foot upper deck shot in the first off Brian Bohanon, the longest of the year at Busch Stadium. His eighth-inning drive off Mel Rnias ded the score 4-all.

Marlins 8, Astros 6 . Alex Fernandez (15-8) struck out 10 in winning his fifth consecning streak snapped. In five utive start, and Jeff Conine hit a go-ahead, two-run single in the top of the eighth.

Fernandez allowed five runs three earned - and nine hits in seven innings.

Back-to-back homers by Derek Bell and Jeff Bagwell had giveo the Astros a 5-4 lead in the seventh. But Jose Lima (1-6) walked Bobby Bonilla in the eighth. Darren Daulton donbled and Conine greeted Russ Springer with his third hit.

Phillies 12, Rockies 8 Mike Lieberthal had four hits, including a three-run homer, and Mark Leiter (8-12) contributed a two-run single as visiting Philadelphia matched a season high with its fourth straight victory and 12th in 15 games.

Mickey Morandini added four hits and an RBI for the Phillies and Leiter won for the third time in four starts, allowing six runs

and nine hits in 5 1/3 innings. Jeff Reed drove in three runs with his 10th homer and a two-run single. Andres Galarraga hit his 31st bomer and drove in three runs, increasing his major leagueleading total to 112.

AMERICAN LEAGUE
BATTING—FThomas, Chicago, 348; WClark, Texas, 333; O'Neili, New York, 333; Ramirez, Cleveland, 332; MVaughn, Boston, 329; BeWilliams, New York, 325; Justice, Cleveland, 324; Cora, Seattle, 324
RUNS—Knoblauch, Minnesota, 93; Garciaparra, Boston, 91; Griffey Jr, Seattle, 86; Jeter, New York, 83; BLHunter, Detroit, 83; EMartinez, Seattle, 83; ToClark, Detroit, 82; Cora, Seattle, 82.
RBI—TMartinez, New York, 109; Griffey Jr, Seattle, 108; Salmon, Anaheim, 95; FThomas, Chicago, 95; JuGonzalez, Texas, 93; O'Neili, New York, 91; ToClark, Detroit, 89. AMERICAN LEAGUE

FThomas, Chicago, 95; JuGonzalez, Texas, 93; O'Neill, New York, 91; ToClark, Detroit, 89.

HITS—Garciapama, Boston, 156; Greer, Texas, 144; Jeter, New York, 142; IRodriguez, Texas, 142; Cora, Seattle, 142; GAnderson, Anaheim, 139; O'Neill, New York, 138.

HOME RUNS—TMartinez, New York, 39; Griffey Jr, Seattle, 37; McGwire, Oeldand, 34; Thome, Cleveland, 30; JuGonzalez, Texas, 28; ToClark, Detroit, 27; FThomas, Chicago, 27; Buhner, Seattle, 20; STOLEN BASES—BLHunter, Detroit, 80; Nixon, Thronto, 47; Knoblauch, Minnesota, 45; TGoodwin, Texas, 40; Vizquel, Cleveland, 32; Durham, Chicago, 25; ARodriguez, Seattle, 22.

PITCHING (14 Decisions)—RaJohnson, Seattle, 16-3, .842, 2.35; Clemens, Toronto, 18-4, .818, 1.66; Moyer, Seattle, 12-4, .750, .4.12; Ericlson, Baltimore, 14-5, .737, 3.33; Radke, Minnesota, 16-6, .727, 3.29; Mussina, Baltimore, 13-5, .722, 3.54.

STRIKEOUTS—RaJohnson, Seattle, 243; Clemens, Toronto, 215; Cone, New York, 214; Mussina, Baltimore, 161; CFinley, Anaheim, 149; Fassero, Seattle, 145; Appler, Kansas City, 145.

Appler, Kansas City, 145.

SAVES—MRivera, New York, 36; RaMyers, Baltimore, 34; RHemandez, Chicago, 27; Wetteland, Texas, 26; DoJones, Milwaukee, 24; ToJones, Detroit, 23;

NATIONAL LEAGUE
BATTING—Gwynn, San Diego, .383; LWalker, Colorado, .377; Piazza, Los Angeles, .350; Lotion, Atlanta, .344; Joyner, San Diego, .332; MaGrace, Chicago, .323; Gafarraga, Colorado, .320.
RUNS—Biggio, Houston, 107; LWalker, Colorado, 106; Bonds, San Francisco, .87; Gafarraga, Colorado, .87; Bagwell, Houston, .85; EcYoung, Colorado, .78; Mondesi, Los Angeles, .74.
RBI—Galarraga, Colorado, .112; Bagwell, Houston, .105; LWalker, Colorado, .97; Gwynn, San Diego, .96; Chulones, Atlanta, .94; Kent, San Francisco, .92; Sosa, Chicago, .90.
HITS—Gwynn, San Diego, .168; LWalker, Colorado, .164; Biordo, Mousten, .161. NATIONAL LEAGUE

HITS.-Gwynn, San Diego, 168; LWalker, Colorado, 164; Biggio, Houston, 151; Gatarraga, Colorado, 144; Ch.Jones, Atlanta, 141; Plazza, Los Angeles, 141;

Galarraga, Golorado. 144: Ch.Jones, Atlanta, 141; Plazza, Los Angeles, 141; Womack, Pitisburgh, 140.

HOME RUNS—LWalker, Colorado, 35; Bagwell, Houston, 33; Galarraga, Colorado. 31; Castilla, Colorado, 29; Brinds, San Francisco, 28; Hundley, New York, 28; Sosa, Chicago, 26.

STOLEN BASES—DSanders, Cincinnati, 55; Womack, Pitisburgh, 44; DeShields, St. Louis, 41; EcYoung, Colorado, 32; Henderson, San Diego, 29; Cveras, San Diego, 26; McCracken, Colorado, 25; Mondesi, Los Angeles, 25; LWalker, Colorado, 25; Duriston, Chicago, 25.

PITCHING (14 Decisions)—Neagle, Allanta, 16-2, 889, 2.82; Kila, Hruston, 16-3, 842, 2.31; GMaddux, Atlanta, 15-3, 833, 2.31; Estes, San Francisco, 14-4, 778, 3.01; P.IMartinez, Montreal, 14-5, .737, 1.72; J.Harnilton, San Diego, 10-4, 714, 4.18; Juden, Montreal, 11-5, .887, 4.22.

STRIKEOUTS—Schilling, Philladelphia, 232; P.JMartinez, Montreal, 207; Nomo, Los Angeles, 177; Smottz, Atlanta, 172; K.JBrown, Florida, 164; AlBenes, St. Louis, 160; Kila, Houston, 158.

SAVES—Beck, San Francisco, 33; Nen, Florida, 30; JoFranco, New York, 30; Hottman, San Diego, 29; Wohlers, Atlanta, 28; ToWorrell, Los Angeles, 28; Eckersley, St. Louis, 28.

# Peretz: Gov't reforms will cut jobs

Histadrut set to declare general labor dispute on Sunday

By DAVID HARRIS

The Histadrut will declare a general labor dispute on Sunday as the organization steps up its opposition to the governmentapproved blueprint for structural reforms in the economy.

Histadrut chairman Amir Peretz met Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman yesterday in a bid to reach agreement over the reforms. They also discussed the ongoing disagreement between Bezeq and its employees over company reorganization and the sale of some 12.4 percent of company shares to Merrill Lynch - a deal the workers claim was implemented without their

knowledge.

Before his 90-minute meeting with Neeman, Peretz told reporters that the government program of reforms, aimed at increasing competition, will in fact be "a program for increasing unemployment in Israel, attacking workers' rights in almost every sector."

Responding, Neeman said workers have no need to fear the planned changes. "Growth will bring about more workplaces," he

The Histadrut is accusing the government of changing the nature of existing pension and provident funds and agreements lioked to unemployment benefits. "This is actually the most important money to the workers," said Peretz, who agreed to meet Neeman again on Sunday in a bid to avoid strike action.

We will activate [the right to strike) when there is an appropriate need," said the Histadrut chairman. "We will try as much as possible to avoid strikes. A strike is not a ends, but a means." The Histadrut is about to enter a

battle with the government on the media front, trying to win public support for the workers' cause.



Histadrut chairman Amir Peretz (left) meets with Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman yesterday.

sell all its assets to the private sector, Peretz urged an eveohanded approach to the public

"A state without balances is a state in danger," he concluded. "A state without balances could find its democracy completely wined out. We will fight this."

Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan yesterday wrote to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu Demanding the government not urging him to fight the Histadrut, Peretz to call a labor dispute

"which couldn't care less" about the geoeral suffering of the people, but is only interested in its own political advancement.

Meanwhile, workers at Oil Refineries Ltd. in Haifa and Ashdod are calling for immediate Histadrut action to prevent the company being split in two, in accordance with the cabinet's Wednesday oight decisioo, Workers' representatives asked

throughout the petroleum sector, iocluding employees at the two cities' ports, Pi Glilot and at Delek and Sonol.

The workers claim dividing the company will adversely affect all 2,000 sector employees. The head of the senior committee of employees in the sector, Reuven Schwartzberg, pointed out that many of the 300 workers in Haifa provide services to the Ashdod

lective agreements will be abolished and workers will be thrown into the streets, he said, adding: "I've leamed this from the experience of the privatization of Sbekem and Paz. Schwartzberg also intends to

The government decision is the

precursor to privatizing the com-

pany, at which point all the col-

convene a meeting of Haifa and Ashdod staff to consider whal steps can be taken internally.

proposed cuts in the Education Ministry's budget would affect every family and every child in the

not be reduced," Barak said.

# Peled: School cuts will be rescinded

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN and film

A defiant Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled said last night that be is certain that in the end, the Education Ministry will get back the money that it oeeds to open the school year on time (on September 1), including funds needed to expand the long school day program as planned.
Calling the approval of the cuts in the Education Ministry budget

"power games" being played by the Finance Ministry, Peled said that "on August 31, like every year, there will be a meeting between the prime minister, the education minister and the finance minister, and the money will be given back to the ministry."

'Although right now only the Finance Ministry officials have emerged winners, in the end, we will all emerge winners," Peled predicted.

However, Peled said that this could not be achieved without a "struggle," adding: "I expect everyone who cares about education and the future of the State of Israel not to lend a hand to cuts in the education budget."

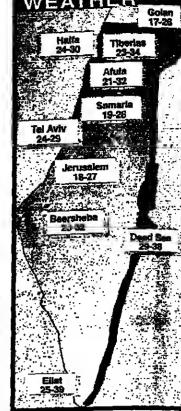
The deputy minister said that letters of dismissal sent to teachers in recent weeks were "illegal," since the teachers legally had to be given more notice, and could not be fired within two weeks of the opening of school.

The state will have to pay them," he said.

Peled said that if the cuts were not overcome somehow, he did not see how the school year could open on time, "but I'm a born optimist, and believe that in the end. justice will triumph." Meanwhile, Labor Party leader

Ehud Barak said yesterday that the

"After-school activities will disappear and enrichment programs will be cancelled, teaching hours will be cut and so will assistance to the weaker elements in society. The cuts will also mean the end of the treod towards reducing the number of children in each class. and the cost of day care will also



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# Father of Maccabiah victim demands accountability

By JONATHAN TEPPERMAN

After four weeks of sitting by his 15year-old daughter Sacha, the last Maccabiah victim in Israeli care, Colin Elterman, was plenty angry yesterday that nobody has taken responsibility for the dis-

Some three weeks have passed since an official inquiry blamed shoddy engineering and construction for the July 14 accident which killed 4 Australian athletes and

injured 64, and nobody has been charged or fered by Elterman and other athletes.

"Everyone has run for the hills," Elterman said.

Sacba was one of the youngest of the casualties. She was being treated for a respiratory infection of unclear origin at the intensive care unit of Petah Tikva's Schneider Hospital. Officials bave said that water samples from the Yarkon River were being tested to determine whether pollutants could have triggered infections suf-

"We're upset with the way the whole thing has been handled," Elterman said. There should be resignations, public statements of support for the victims' families, criminal charges and the creation of a safety committee to ensure that this doesn't happen again. I'd like to see some people charged," he said. "And not only the little

He had kinder words for the Israeli pub-

"Unofficially, our treatment here has been fantastic," said Elterman, noting that Dr. Tom Schonfeld has given them a room in the hospital and lets Elterman use his office. "We also feel good about the reaction of Israelis in general," he added. " We're still getting four or five sympathy calls a day. People bring us food, and children travel from all over the country to see Sacha. There's a feeling of collective embarrassment and shame, and people are doing all they can to make our lives easier."

# Burg warns of crisis between Diaspora and Israeli Jews

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg urged the cabinet yesterday to intervene in lagging efforts to come up with a formula for registering Reform and Conservative convens as Jews in

Burg said he was concerned by the lack of progress made by a committee appointed months ago to deal with the conversion issue. The committee chaired by Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, is "the last hope for crisis in relations between Diaspora and Israeli Jewry,"

Burg said. "The Temple was destroyed because of baseless hatred. which we recalled this week, and we need overflowing supplies of

preventing a tragic, irreversible brotherly love to overcome narrowmindedness, and prevent the demise of the Jewish people," he

> Burg was critical of Monday's disruption of prayers held by Conservative Jews at the Western Wall during Tisha

"The Western Wall was what the Jewish people longed for spiritually, religiously and historically for almost 2,000 years. and today it is liable to turn into the reason for a new division in the Jewish people," he said.

In a separate appeal to Labor Party leader Ehud Barak, Burg lashed out at a bill introduced by MK Avi Yehezkel to ban non-Orthodox Jews from religious councils, labling it a measure that would discriminate among Jews "in a way that even our enemies haven't done."

Michal Yudelmon ond Liot Collins also contributed to this

### Man held for kidnapping. threatening to kill son

A Petah Tikva Magistrate's day. They did not return. Instead, Court judge remanded Yosef the mother was sent a videotape Yefet, 35, of Pardesiya, for three days yesterday, for allegedly kidnapping his six-year-old son from his mother's home in the Sharon area, holding him for three days and threatening to kill the boy and himself.

The judge said at the end of the three days Yefet would be placed under house arrest for another week, and theo released on bail of NIS 15,000.

The incident began Monday evening when Yefet, who bas been divorced for three years, sent his oephew to his ex-wife's

the mother was sent a videotape in which Yefet expressed his frustration at his divorce settlement, and listed a dozen demands.

In the tape, Yefet gave a secret code, saying if the code was published in Yediot Ahoronot, he would know that his demands were being met. If not, he threatened to to shoot the boy and commit suicide.

The family informed police, who through intelligence informatioo located Yefet and his son sleeping on a beach oear Ein Gev. Yefet was arrested and the

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### house to collect his son for the boy returned to his mother. (Itim) The International Arts & Crafts Fair

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Tuesday, 19.8.97 · Trio Indio Wednesday, 20.8.97 - Yermi Kaplan & the "Finwers" Thursday, 21.8.97 - Ehud Banai Saturday, 23.8.97 - Assaf Amdursky Monday, 18.8.97 - Arcadi Duchin & the "Lemons" Sunday, 24.8.97 - Ariel Zilber

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